The Canadian Jewish news

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Violence erupts in territories

JERUSALEM (JTA) —

As Israeli and Palestinian negotiators attempt to talk peace in Washington, relations between Jews and Arabs have deteriorated sharply in the West Bank and East Jerusalem.

The West Bank was especially tense over the weekend, as security forces, egged on by angry settlers, expanded curfews, barred Arabs from parts of main highways and conducted mass arrests in Palestinian towns and refugee camps.

Settlers, seeking reprisals for recent ambush attacks on Jewish vehicles, including one Saturday night, rampaged through Arab towns for the second time in a week, causing extensive damage to Arab property.

The situation in East Jerusalem simmered meanwhile. Jewish settlers who won legal backing of their claim to property in the Arab enclave of Silwan were nevertheless placed under some restrictions by the courts, pending hearings on the complaints of evicted Arab families.

In the West Bank, the Israel Defence Force and police mounted joint operations that netted 25 suspects believed responsible for terrorist acts and a large arsenal of weapons.

Police sources said they were mostly "cold" weapons, such as knives, swords and hatchets. But they also uncovered some home-made handguns.

The sweeps were conducted in and around the Askar refugee camp near Nablus, where a settler's car was attacked driving to Eilon Moreh.

Another settler was shot at from ambush Saturday night near Tekoah, in the Judean hills. No one was hurt.

But settlers are still furious over the fatal shooting of Zvi Klein, a settler from Ofra who was driving through El-Bireh on Dec. 1.

El-Bireh and its sister town of Ramallah, north of Jerusalem, had been under 24-hour curfew since then. It was reduced over the weekend to a nighttime curfew, in effect from 4 p.m. to 5 a.m.

At the same time however, Palestinian residents of the West Bank were banned from using sections of highway from 5 p.m. to 6 a.m.

The ban applies not only to the pavement but to a strip nearly 500 feet wide along the major highways where they pass through uninhabited areas. Any Arab found in those areas during the curfew would be arrested.

The army said it was only one of several measures intended to reduce the opportunities for ambush. It had considered placing all of the highways under curfew but feared that would not stand up in court.

The IDF acted at the urging of settlers, who have long complained that security is lax. The settlers demand more severe punishment, including large-scale deportations of Palestinians suspected of violent acts.

But reserve Gen. Ori Orr, retired commander of the central sector, which includes the West Bank, said the new measures would prove ineffective, as they did when imposed in Lebanon.

Other military experts agreed. They said that more troops would have to be sent to the West Bank to enforce the ban, which could harm innocent citizens while terrorists would find ways to circumvent it.

On Sunday, Jewish vigilantes

[Cont'd. on page 11]

SETTLERS PROTEST KILLINGS

Policemen try to calm this settler protesting what the settlers see as inadequate protection for the West Bank settlements. This protest followed the death of Zvi Klein, 44, who was shot in the head while driving home in Ofra, north of Jerusalem, and other violent attacks on Jewish settlers. [IPPA photo]

Conservative Jews back distinct society

By JANICE ARNOLD

MONTREAL —

The Canadian Jewish Conservative movement, claiming about 50,000 members, has taken a position on Canadian unity that supports "a Quebec society distinct in language and culture."

The Canadian Council for Conservative Judaism has adopted a resolution that calls for reconciling "the aspirations of the people of Quebec" with the preservation of a united, pluralistic Canada.

Other resolutions were:

•Legal protection of persons with the AIDS virus from discrimination in housing, employment and health care services. The resolution deplores the "confusion, ignorance and denial" with which the AIDS "epidemic" is often met. AIDS has the potential of "destroying society as we know it."

•The strictest possible control should be enacted over the sale of firearms. At the least, gun control legislation should ban all semi-automatic weapons, require a permit for the purchase of guns and ammunition, and greater surveillance on the storage of guns.

•Opposition to "any attempt by the federal and provincial governments to legislate control of abortion, leaving all decisions in this area to the conscience of the individuals involved, in consultation with their medical advisers."

The CCCJ says, under certain circumstances, such as risk to the woman's health or life, Judaism "sanctions, even mandates, abortion." The resolution continues: "The premise that personhood begins with conception is founded on a religious position which is not identical with Jewish tradition.

"Therefore, under special circumstances, Judaism chooses and requires abortion as an act which affirms and protects the life, well-being and health of the the mother. To deny a Jewish woman and her family the ability to obtain a safe, legal abortion when so mandated by Jewish tradition, is to deprive Jews of their fundamental right of religious freedom."

•A new "rape shield" law should be enacted to "enshrine the principle that a woman has the absolute right to say no to sex in each instance and that her past sexual behavior shall not be the subject of cross-examination except in special circumstances."

The law as it currently stands since the Supreme Court's recent decision to strike down the 1983 rape shield law is "insufficient to protect women's reputations and dignity, which our Jewish tradition has historically recognized and preserved."

•The Quebec government's assessment of the possible dangers to the environment and way of life of native people posed by the second phase of the James Bay hydroelectric project should be carried out "openly, seriously and in depth" before a final decision is made to start the project.

•There should be no cuts in spending on social services by the provincial or federal governments in order to reduce.

•Canada should seek a comprehensive nuclear test ban treaty, the elimination of chemical and biological weapons, a balanced reduction of conventional forces, and the prevention of the expansion of the arms race into space.

"The Gulf War [has] shown that humanity continues to live on the brink of universal destruction by nuclear war..." the CCCJ states.

•Bail and parole conditions should be more stringent to curb violent crimes by parolees or person out on bail.

Repeal of resolution 'assured'

UNITED NATIONS (JTA/STAFF) —

As of *The CJN*'s Monday morning deadline, the passage by the General Assembly of a motion repealing the 1975 resolution declaring Zionism a form of racism was all but assured.

The repeal resolution, spearheaded by Israel and the United States, and co-sponsored by 71 nations, including Canada, had the support of the majority of the UN's 166 members.

Late last week, Jewish groups said over 95 countries had agreed to vote for the resolution.

The repeal resolution reads simply, "The General Assembly decides to revoke the determination contained in its Reolution 3379 of 10 November, 1975."

Resolution 3379 was adopted by a vote of 72-35, with 32 abstentions. Several of the nations that voted for it were among the co-sponsors of the repeal resolution.

"The removal of this stain is of moral importance," said Yoram Aridor, Israel's UN ambassador.

As of Friday, an Egyptian-led procedural move to thwart a vote was not arousing much concern. Likewise, Jewish activists were playing down the danger of a possible Arab counterresolution that would brand Israel, rather than Zionism, as racist.

A campaign mounted by some 50 national Jewish organizations to secure support for the repeal produced a last-minute rush of commitments, according to Shoshana Cardin, chairman of the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations, which co-ordinated the lobbying drive.

Aridor praised the Jewish efforts, as well as those of the United States and other friendly countries.

"They really mobilized the world, over five continents, to support the repeal," he said.

In Ottawa last week, the federal government called on the UN to revoke the resolution.

"A decision to rescind the infamous Zionism is racism resolution would send a powerful and positive signal," said External Affairs Minister Barbara McDougall.

In Washington, Mohamed Kamel Amr, political affairs minister at the Egyptian Embassy, soft-pedaled his country's opposition to the repeal during an address last Thursday to the American Jewish Committee.

Amr said the argument was not over the justice of repealing the 1975 resolution but over the timing.

He said that the Islamic Conference, meeting last week in Senegal, tried to adopt a "very harsh resolution" opposing attempts by the United States to withdraw the resolution from the General Assembly. And Egypt was there working very hard to "tone down any kind of resolution in this regard."

"We believe that this resolution should be removed from the General Assembly," but now is a bad time to do so, Amr said.

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Canada

Manning reaches out to Jewish community

By
MYRON LOVE

WINNIPEG —

Preston Manning, leader of the Reform Party of Canada, is reaching out to the Canadian Jewish community and other ethnic groups to allay suspicions his party is racist, anti-Semitic and anti-immigration.

At his own iniative Manning adressed a luncheon at Shaarey Zedek Synagogue here. Last summer, local Reform supporters approached the Winnipeg Jewish community leadership. Manning was concerned about the perception in the Jewish community that his party was made up of red-necked racists. He wanted an opportunity to refute that image.

He met with a group of community leaders including Sid Halpern, president of the Winnipeg Jewish Community Council, Mel Fages, WJCC vice-president of community relations, Joe Wilder, vice-president central region of the Canadian Jewish Congress, Harold Buchwald, past president of the Jewish Foundation of Manitoba, Marjorie Blankstein, a WJCC past president, Nora Kaufman, last year's Negev Dinner honoree and Mr. Justice Guy Kroft, a member of the WJCC's community relations committee.

Manning reportedly made a favorable impression in terms of integrity and credibility. He also asked for an opportunity to address the larger Jewish community.

In his speech at the Shaarey Zedek Synagogue, Manning conceded that his party, being a young, grassroots organization, is vulnerable to extremists. He reported the party is taking steps to discourage racists and anti-Semites through a four-stage effort including passing resolutions distancing itself from any people who discriminate for racial or religious reasons; making sure party policies have no racial or ethnic criteria in them; trying to encourage "moderators" at public meetings to immediately get to a microphone and disown any extremist views being voiced; and getting prospective candidates to weed out anyone with any connection to organizations that discriminate according to race or religion.

He noted he refused to sign the nomination papers of one Reform Party nominee in Vancouver in the 1988 election because the candidate would not distance himself publicly from suspicions he was a racist.

Manning noted his father, Ernest Manning, longtime Social Credit Premier of Alberta, spent 20 years weeding out anti-Semites from his party and government. "That meant firing some of his cabinet ministers and rooting out some MLAs," Manning said. "His efforts were recognized by Alberta's Jewish communities.

"I feel the best way to inoculate against the danger of racism is to encourage members of the Jewish and other ethnic communities who support our fiscal and constitutional policies to join our constituent assemblies and stand for election as Reform candidates."

After his speech, Manning responded to a number of questions from the floor. Asked about his call for balancing the national budget and what effect that might have on social programs, he replied, "the greater threat to our social service safety network is the country's growing debt." He would recommend a "Save our safety net" commission to determine how to get more mileage out of the dollars being spent and decide where they are needed most.

Preston Manning

He believes the provinces should have a greater say in how money for social programs is allotted. Using Medicare as an example, he says federal government transfer payments to the provinces should have no strings attached. He sees two approaches to Medicare funding — user fees of some sort of health care deductions as Alberta and British Columbia were considering, or the Saskatchewan approach which would take money from other areas to ensure universal Medicare. He would leave it up to each province to decide how to go about it.

He responded to a question on how to control government spending by alluding to his party's four-point program including symbolic cuts at the top, elimination of big ticket federal grants, handouts and programs, downsizing of the federal civil service and his earlier suggestion of a safety net commission to better focus safety net spending.

Rather than increasing unemployment, he feels spending reductions would result in lower taxes that would stimulate economic growth. He also called for retraining of manpower on a large scale.

Manning would support privatization of some government functions and Crown corporations if it would be shown someone else could operate them more efficiently. "Our commitment to privatization is practical, not ideological," he said.

His response to cross-border shopping would be lower taxes, while he believes the marketplace should determine the real level of the Canadian dollar vis-a-vis the American.

One questioner asked him how to get the Americans off our backs. He replied that he doesn't agree with that sentiment. "We should be learning how to take better advantage of the American market and sell into it," he said. "Free trade was the first step. I want to see our ability to compete with the Americans strengthened."

In seeking to ease another questioner's concern mixing politics and religion, Manning suggested people are tired of politicians whose only value is getting elected.

"The public wants people in politics with strong values and principles," he says. "Yet we share your concern. We believe people and party members have the right to argue policy matters based on deeply held principles without being shouted down. We adopt our policies through majority vote.

"We also believe our candidates and elected representatives should reveal their positions on issues and should only vote on their personal view if there is no concensus in their ridings. If there is concensus, our member of Parliament should vote according to the views of the constituents."

As an Evangelical Christian, he noted, he is also in a minority and can thus identify with Jewish concerns. Manning, however, has faith in the open-mindedness of most Canadians and supports the protection of minorities under the Charter of Rights and Freedoms.

A question on Israel and the peace process elicited strong support from Manning for a need for "iron-clad guarantees" on Israel's own right to self-determination on a pre-condition to any negotiations. The Reform Party as a whole yet has not adopted many stands on international issues.

On the matter of Quebec, Manning reported extensive party surveys of western Canadians show the West is willing to accept a distinct society clause only if it is a recognition of Quebec's uniqueness. If it means though that Quebec would receive constitutional powers not granted to the other provinces, then the Reform Party and western Canada "get off the train."

"We prefer to have a new Quebec in a new Canada," Manning said. "We invite Quebec to redefine itself while we redefine ourselves. If Quebec then wants to join the new Canada, it is welcome. If not, the rest of Canada should drive the hardest bargain possible and get the best deal for Canada."

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Retiring Ontario Lt.-Gov. Lincoln Alexander was presented with a plaque by Berny Weinstein, founder and honorary president of Beit Halochem Canada, and his wife Belle during Alexander's last week in office. The Weinsteins thanked Alexander on behalf of the organization for his interest and support over the years. Alexander attended and spoke at a dinner honoring Weinstein in 1989 and has hosted many receptions at Queen's Park for the annual group visits of disabled Israeli veterans.

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CANADIAN JEWISH NEWS OFFICES

Toronto: 10 Gateway Blvd.
Suite 420, Don Mills, Ont. M3C 3A1
Tel: 416-422-2331, Advertising Fax: 416-422-3790
Editorial Fax: 416-424-1886
Montreal: Square Decarie, Suite 157.
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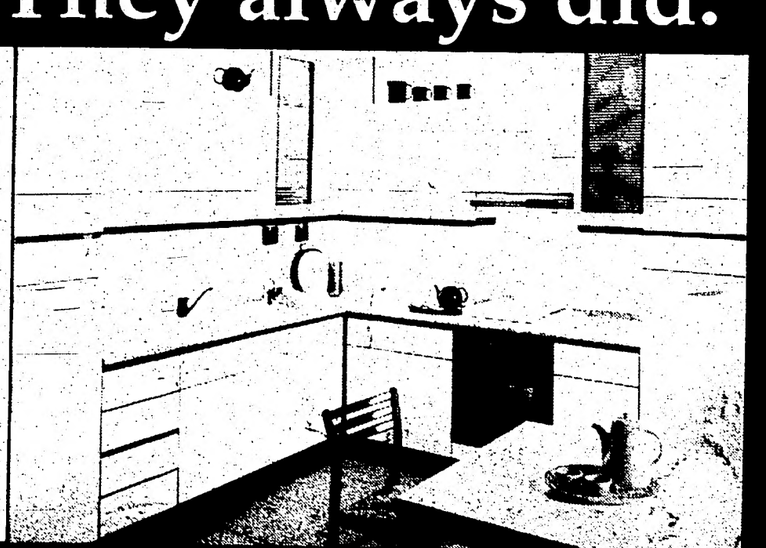

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Anti-Semitic attitudes strongest in Quebec: BB

By
JANICE ARNOLD

MONTREAL —

Anti-Semitic attitudes are more prevalent in Quebec, and particularly among francophones, than elsewhere in Canada, according to a seven-year study by the B'nai Brith Canada League for Human Rights, its chairman Stephen Scheinberg said at a recent Anti-Defamation League conference.

The BB polls, conducted by the professional firm Environics, show French-Quebecers are more likely to hold negative attitudes about Jews and that does not diminish with higher level of education, unlike the rest of Canada.

Scheinberg described the number of anti-Semitic Quebecers as a "significant minority," although he offered no figures. Overall, French-Quebecers showed a higher level of negative attitudes to minorities in general than the Canadian average, he said.

"[Quebec] nationalism, having been historically interwoven with anti-Semitism and when combined with a poor economy, is cause for concern," said Scheinberg, a Concordia University history professor.

'Tapped by demagogues'

He emphasized, however, that overt anti-Semitism is not a problem nor has it entered politics, but warned such latent tendencies could be "tapped by demagogues."

Scheinberg said he is most worried by the emphasis nationalists place on collective, as opposed to, individual rights. He is also disturbed by what he sees as an intolerant attitude toward any criticism of Quebec.

From 1983-89, BB surveyed Canadians' attitudes to six minority groups: Italians, Poles, blacks, Chinese, Pakistanis and Jews. Respondents (over 2,000 persons were polled each year) were asked if they had contact with that minority group, thought they had "too much" power, would vote for a member of that minority, perceived an increase or decrease in anti-Jewish sentiment, and their sympathies on the Arab-Israeli conflict.

Later, in an article in Concordia's *Thursday Report*, Scheinberg disclosed in a less guarded tone than at the conference that, in Quebec, Jews were the target of the most negative feeling of the groups listed. About a quarter of Quebec respondents exhibited anti-Semitic attitudes "by far the highest [proportion] for a province with a large Jewish population."

He cited only two examples in the article. Twenty to 25 percent of all Quebec residents through the years studied stated that they would not vote for a Jewish candidate even if they were running for the party they normally support.

In 1989, 19 percent of all Canadians agreed Jews had too much power; in Quebec, the figure was 26 percent, Scheinberg wrote.

Scheinberg noted that the BB survey study, led by Concordia sociology professor Taylor Buckner, polled more than 14,000 Canadians, almost four times as many as separate attitudinal studies conducted by University of Toronto professors Robert Brym and Joseph Fletcher in the 1980s. Both studies found a higher incidence of anti-Semitism among French-Quebecers than elsewhere in Canada.

Scheinberg suggests the survey analysis may more accurately reflect reality than BB's much-cited annual audit of anti-Semitic incidents in Canada. Reported incidents have been fewer and more stable in Quebec in recent years than in Ontario, where reports of incidents to the BB office have sharply increased.

Although leading politicians of all parties have denounced anti-Semitic incidents in Quebec, Scheinberg suggests that Quebec intellectual nationalists prefer to deny, rather than confront, attitudinal anti-Semitism.

On balance, Scheinberg said at the ADL conference that the Western-based Reform Party , which he accused of anti-immigrant and anti-multiculturalism leanings, is probably of more serious concern to BB than Quebec attitudinal anti-Semitism.

Overall, the seven-year survey indicates a significant increase in Canadians' willingness to express prejudice in the late 1980s, according to Buckner's analysis. Nevertheless, "the vast majority" of Canadians are apparently not prejudiced and the results are in line with a 50-year trend of decline in prejudice in North America, he notes.

'Too much power'

Buckner says the response to two key questions on whether the minorities listed have "too much power" and whether one would vote for a member of that minority showed an uptick between 1988 and '89 for all groups listed.

In both answers, the percentages jumped by at least 2 percent, considered statistically important. In the case of Jews, on the "power" question, 15.5 percent agreed they had too much in 1988 and 17.5 percent in 1989.

Eight percent said they would not vote for a Jew in 1988 and 10.2 percent said the same in 1989.

On both questions, the most prejudice nationally was shown toward Pakistanis at over 19 percent in each case. On the voting question, more people said they would not vote for a person of Chinese origin than for a Jew.

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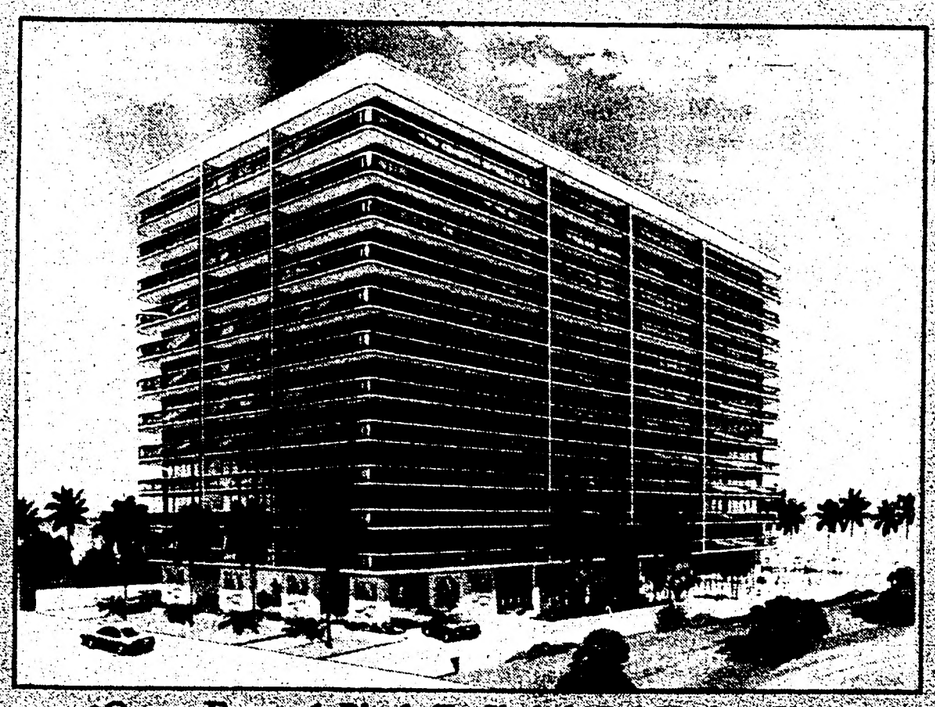

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Canada

Survey examines aspects of Jewish life in Canada

By
JANICE ARNOLD

MONTREAL —

By all standard measures, Canadian Jews have a stronger sense of identity and a more cohesive community than their American counterparts, according to a major survey of Canadian Jewry.

A total of 972 Canadian Jews (409 in Toronto, 352 in Montreal and 210 in the rest of Canada) were surveyed in December, 1990 for a project funded by the CRB Foundation of Montreal. The survey was conducted by the Goldfarb polling firm.

Summary results of the survey show that Canadian Jews are more observant in ritual practice, are more close-knit, give more to Jewish charities and are better organized that American Jews.

These data are taken from Jewish Identity in Canada: National Character, Regional Diversity and Emerging Trends, written by Stephen Cohen, a sociology professor at Queens College, City University of New York.

Cohen said his full report should be released in March.

Canadian Jews are also more in touch with Israel and Israelis, more knowledgeable about Israel, more "actively pro-Israel" and more Zionistic, than Jews south of the border.

Relative to American Jewry, the Canadian Jewish community is characterized by both large Orthodox and secular (i.e., non-denominational) components. "In contrast with the United States, the appeal of Canadian Reform Judaism is, at this date, rather limited. In both countries, Conservative Judaism is the largest single branch."

Canadian Jews also show greater fluency in Yiddish and Hebrew.

Cohen compared the Canadian data with results of a Council of Jewish Federations survey of U.S. Jewry completed in 1990.

The major communities within Canada also have their distinctive qualities.

Montreal Jewry is more observant and more communally active than the Canadian average. Winnipeg Jewry is noted for its "Yiddishism, organizational life, Conservative synagogue affiliation and, for Canada, a lower than average level of attachment to Israel."

Cohen says Jews in British Columbia have the lowest level of ritual observance and institutional affiliation.

Stephen Cohen

Toronto, the country's largest community, is "distinguished by its typicality. With over 40 percent of Canada's Jews, Toronto generally scores neither very high nor very low on measures of Jewish involvement. On the whole, Toronto area Jews are somewhat less involved in many aspects of Jewish life than those in Montreal, but more involved than most Jews elsewhere."

"Vast numbers" of Canadian Jews express anxiety about anti-Semitism, but few reported having experienced "verbal or more serious abuse" because they are Jews. Respondents voiced a "tremendous amount" of concern about being accepted in Canadian society.

Cohen, a consultant to the CRB Foundation, which is headed by Charles Bronfman, has conducted frequent national surveys of American Jewry. He co-wrote the recently published book *Two Worlds of Judaism: The Israeli and American Experiences*. He helped design the Canadian survey, and is its author.

Canadian Jewry's relatively high level of ritual observance and synagogue membership appears to be strong across all age groups. Cohen even detects a growth in traditional observance and Orthodoxy among the young. The young also seem to have the same sense of communal affiliation as older Jews.

At the same time, the survey indicates intermarriage is on the rise, but appears to have no appreciable effect overall on observance of ritual and/or community involvement. Cohen does not see this as contradictory; he suspects many non-Jews in mixed marriages adopt Jewish customs without conversion.

He also found that having attended a Jewish day school did not prevent intermarriage.

However, Cohen does see some "softening" of younger Jews' "feelings of closeness" to Israel that "demonstrate[s] an unmistakable gap between older and younger Canadian Jews."

Altogether these differences between the generations suggest to Cohen a "change in the nature of Jewish commitment in Canada.

"But they do not point to any clear shift in one direction or the other. If these data do tell us something about the future directions of Jewish involvement in Canada, they suggest neither massive erosion of Jewish identity nor wholesale intensification."

Cohen describes this project as "the first national random, door-to-door survey" of Canadian Jews. Pollsters mainly walked through Jewish neighborhoods or looked up Jewish names in telephone directories to find respondents.

Hate messages prompt complaints

By
PAUL LUNGEN

TORONTO —

An official of Canadian Jewish Congress, with the support of a Vancouver human rights group, has filed a complaint to the Canadian Human Rights Commission over alleged telephone hate messages.

Michael Elterman, chairman of Congress' Pacific region, last week filed the complaint against the Canadian Liberty Net, saying the group "discriminates against Jewish and non-white persons."

Aziz Khaki, president of the Committee for Racial Justice in Vancouver (CRJV), said he supports the complaint and plans to file a similar one as well.

Elterman's complaint states that an answering machine at a British Columbia number "claimed that the Holocaust did not occur, that a 'kosher' tax of hundreds of millions of dollars is being levied on all consumers, that non-white 'aliens' are importing crime and other social problems, as well as other messages that expose Jewish and non-white people to hatred and contempt."

B.C. Tel spokesman Maureen Kirkbride said "we're certainly concerned that our facilities are being used for this purpose," but "our hands are tied."

She said that unless there is a clear indication the messages are illegal, the telephone company cannot cut them off.

Kirkbride said the B.C. Attorney General's office had been informed of the situation and is investigating it.

Neither Congress executive director Erwin Nest nor Khaki had heard of the Canadian Liberty Net, though Nest pointed out that the B.C. number had been promoted by U.S. white supremacist Tom Metzger.

Joseph Wilder, national chairman of community relations for Congress, said "the message is clearly of hate. . . [it] is purely spurious and B.C. Tel should have no problem shutting it down."

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Quebec considers Soviet emigres

By
JANICE ARNOLD

MONTREAL —

The Montreal Jewish community and the Quebec Immigration Ministry have begun to explore ways they might work together to make it easier for Soviet Jews to settle in this province.

This dialogue follows on Cultural Communities and Immigration Minister Monique Gagnon-Tremblay's 18-day visit to Eastern Europe and the Soviet Union in October. At her invitation, she was accompanied by Jewish Immigrant Aid Services Montreal director Joel Moss in Moscow, where she met members of the local Jewish community at two separate events.

In an interview with *The CJN*, Gagnon-Tremblay said she gained an impression of Soviet Jews' fears of anti-Semitism, losing their jobs in the privatization of industry and the political uncertainty.

She said the Jews she met appeared to be desirable candidates for immigration to Quebec because of their education and motivation. However, she also realized that few have the financial means to apply as independents, that is, to be self-supporting until they find employment, if they have no guaranteed job here.

If they have relatives here, they must be of a close degree and have the wherewithal to commit themselves to sponsorship.

At the end of November, senior civil servants of her ministry, led by deputy minister Norman Riddell, met with representatives of Allied Jewish Community Services and JIAS to discuss possible joint action to assist Jews from the Soviet Union, as well as Eastern Europe, to immigrate here.

Gagnon-Tremblay said she is interested in forming a "partnership" with the Montreal Jewish community. A joint committee has been formed to further study the matter.

Quebec is prepared to set up French courses in Moscow, in conjunction with the Alliance Francaise there, for those selected for immigration but awaiting their visas.

Two significant changes in Canadian immigration rules have occurred that change the way immigrants from former Iron Curtain countries are handled. Last year, with the liberalization, Canada stopped accepting those from communist countries and offered them, instead, the possibility of applying as independent immigrants.

This spring, Quebec's immigration powers were enhanced, making it the only province with the right to select independent and family class immigrants using its own criteria. The federal government still issues the visas, after running security and health checks.

Quebec opened an immigration office in Vienna a year ago, which serves points eastward. Gagnon-Tremblay believes hers was the first official visit to the region by a Quebec immigration minister. (She was in Budapest, Bucharest and Moscow, as well as Vienna.)

Traditionally, Quebec has not been the destination for a large number of migrants to Canada from that region. Quebec has set an overall target of 45,000 for immigrants in all categories in 1992, 49,000 in 1993 and 49,000 in 1994.

Gagnon-Tremblay said she also hoped that her meetings with Soviet Jews will discourage them from "bypassing" (contourner) the normal immigration route by coming to Quebec as visitors and applying for refugee status. She said that with the new opportunities for immigration, she would like them to respect the rules.

She hopes Quebec immigration officials can ease the backlog of applications at the Canadian embassy. She said some 50,000 Soviets applied to come to Canada at the embassy this past year, the majority of them believed to be Jews.

Her meetings with Soviet Jews, arranged by JIAS, consisted of a gathering with about 15 in the basement of a nonprofit organization assisting those who want to emigrate. The next day, she was the guest at a dinner, attended by about 25 persons, many of them professors.

Gagnon-Tremblay said she is open to "all kinds of partnerships" with the Montreal Jewish community in helping Soviets integrate here. This may include welcoming them, assisting them in finding housing and jobs, and sponsorship for a certain time.

If successful, this partnership may serve as a model for similar collaboration with other ethnic groups.

Cultural Communities and Immigration Minister Monique Gagnon-Tremblay. [Howard Kay photo]

JIAS welcomes province's interest

MONTREAL —

Officials of Jewish Immigrant Aid Services and Allied Jewish Community Services have welcomed Quebec Immigration Minister Monique Gagnon-Tremblay's interest in assisting the immigration here of Soviet Jews.

"It was a very successful trip," JIAS Montreal director Joel Moss, said of the days he spent in Moscow with the minister. "I think [she] got a first-hand view of what life is like for Soviet Jews and the quality of these potential immigrants."

Moss thinks the Montreal Jewish community might use the model of the "boat people" effort, the campaign in the late 1970s to help Vietnamese refugees integrate here. The community could play a role in the Soviets' social and economic integration, he thinks, without a financial outlay "to any significant extent."

Most of the Jews Gagnon-Tremblay met have applied to emigrate or expressed an interest to do so. Many have relatives or friends in Montreal.

As for the philosophical dilemma that helping Soviet Jews come here presents to the community, Moss said: "They are going to come here regardless, so we might as well do it planfully. They have relatives here; the community is diminishing. I don't think it will be a massive movement."

Gagnon-Tremblay's delegation also included deputy minister Norman Riddell, political aide Barbara Berger, and the chief of the Quebec immigration office in Vienna, Michel de Montigny.

"We are certainly encouraged the minister has gained an understanding and sensitivity to the plight of Jews in Eastern Europe and the Soviet Union," said AJCS executive director John Fishel, who added that he hopes a "close working relationship" will develop between the community and ministry.

After AJCS consults with JIAS and other interested community agencies, he expects the Jewish community to get back to the ministry early in 1992 with a more detailed agenda.

Fishel said he thinks the number of Soviet Jews who will eventually choose Quebec will be small, and therefore not make much dent in the mass aliyah to Israel.

He believes the key to the success of any collaborative effort with the Quebec government will lie in "mobilization" of both community organizations and the "grassroots" in the job of helping to absorb the newcomers, and not financial outlay alone.

He calls this a part of Montreal Jewry's "self-help tradition" of getting immigrants on their feet.

He indicated that community resources are limited and the maximum use must be made of what exists. He did add, though, that there must be "more than lip service."

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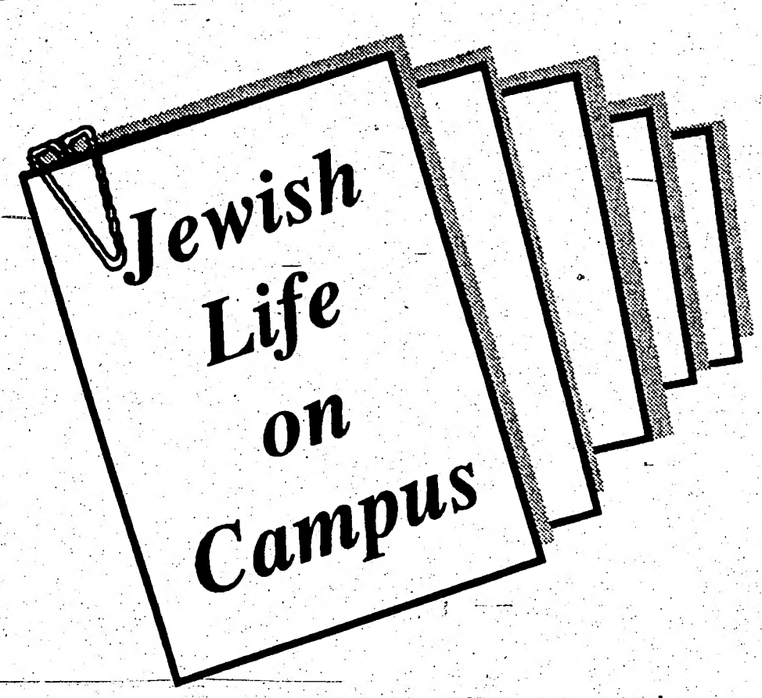


In our continuing series featuring Jewish life on university campuses across Canada, The CJN this week looks at McGill and Concordia universities in Montreal. Janice Arnold reports.

McGill University students (from left) Doron Goldstein, Miri Renert, Shmari Dergel and Sharon Tansky are among the leaders of Hillel on their campus. [Howard Kay photo]

McGill remains the hub of Jewish student activity

MONTREAL —

McGill has always been the university of choice for Montreal Jewish students, as well as for many from out of town. It is estimated that 3,000-4,000 Jews attend McGill and that about a quarter of the undergraduates are Jewish.

Hillel House on nearby Stanley Street continues to be the hub of Jewish student activity, offering a gamut of social, educational, recreational, religious and political activities. Hillel has a popular kosher cafeteria and, this September, opened an eight-bed residence for out-of-town students. New as well is Cafe Vilna, featuring live entertainment in a coffeehouse-style atmosphere.

It also houses a chapel and Rabbi Yakov Travis is the staff chaplain.

The B'nai Brith Hillel Foundation received most of its budget from Allied Jewish Community Services, and relies on private fundraising for the rest. Hillel is affiliated with McGill chaplaincy services, but receives no funding from the university.

The Chabad Lubavitch Youth Organization, also affiliated with chaplaincy, has its headquarters on Peel Street, where Jewish educational programs, holiday celebrations and an informal "haymishe" atmosphere is provided.

There's something going on nearly seven days a week at Hillel House, including frequent Shabbat programs.

Hillel has no formal membership; there are currently about 800 names on its mailing list. A dance this past fall, held in conjunction with the Jewish fraternity, Alpha Epsilon Pi, drew 600 people.

In an interview with *The CJN*, McGill Hillel leaders said they had not experienced anti-Semitism on campus and the discussion of the Arab-Israeli conflict has remained quite civilized.

"Compared to Concordia, it's a minimal problem...It's less blatant; it's not confrontational," said Shmari Dergel, past McGill Hillel president. Their biggest beef is against *The McGill Daily*, whose left-wing slant has perennially taken an anti-Israel position, which McGill Hillel co-president Charles Boulakia says is getting worse.

Frustrated with trying to counter its content, Hillel has withdrawn advertising from *the Daily*. Boulakia added that the other major campus paper, *the McGill Tribune*, has been more fair to Israel.

The Canada-Israel Committee (CIC), since 1988, has published *Dateline*, a student-written publication appearing every two months. Currently, *Dateline* is edited by Doron Goldstein, a Hillel executive member.

Boulakia noted Jewish students are not reluctant to be identified as pro-Israel among their peers, and it is not hard to rally them when a major issue arises affecting Israel or world Jewry, such as during the Scud attacks on Israel.

Israel-related activities include an Israel Week (held at all universities and CEGEPs this year where Hillel operates) and speakers, with the assistance of the CIC. The CIC has an Israel on Campus program that co-ordinates such activities with the students.

Hillel recognizes its "mainstream" status and tries to choose programs that present a balanced view of the Mideast.

A sense of responsibility to the community is instilled through programs on behalf of the campus division of Combined Jewish Appeal, and visiting Jewish patients in hospitals at holidays or children in foster homes.

Hillel has launched a leadership training program, consisting of a weekend retreat, aimed at encouraging students to become involved in the community — preferably in Montreal — after they graduate.

"I don't know one person who says they plan to spend the rest of their life here after they graduate," said Sharon Tansky, the other co-president.

In religious activities, Hillel also attempts to cater to all persuasions. This past Yom Kippur, for example, three sections were set up for services: one for men, one for women, one mixed.

The Jewish Women's Circle, which raises consciousness about contemporary issues, is a committee of Hillel.

While Hillel is the main Jewish student organization, other smaller groups abound including various Zionist factions and the Jewish Law Students' Association. McGill also has a large Jewish Studies Department.

Jewish enrolment on rise at Concordia University

MONTREAL —

Concordia University has always played second fiddle to McGill's hallowed halls of learning. Similarly, Jewish student activity had traditionally been focused on McGill.

That's changing, says Rob Pinker, co-president of the Concordia Jewish Student Union/Hillel. First of all, Concordia has gained a reputation for academic excellence in several spheres, and Jewish student enrolment appears to be increasing. Hillel makes a rough estimate of 2,000 Jewish full- and part-time students at Concordia.

Secondly, Concordia in recent years has been the scene of bitter confrontations between Jewish and Arab students over the Mideast conflict. At McGill, the issues may take the form of fairly civilized debate, but at Concordia the gloves are off.

In 1988, in the peak days of the intifada, Jewish students became so incensed by pro-Palestinian propaganda on display that the issue had to be arbitrated by the university administration.

Pinker says things have cooled off this year, but the atmosphere is still chilly between the two camps. CJSU held an Israel Week (assisted by the Canada-Israel Committee), which included Israeli speakers and setting up information tables, at Concordia in November without serious incident, and is going ahead with a Jewish Cultural Week.

In fact, there have been some tentative overtures from the Arab side for some kind of dialogue with the Jewish students. And Hillel is reaching out to the black Muslim groups, traditionally sympathetic to the Arab cause.

Pinker, and his co-president David Hamaoui, do see anti-Semitism as a concern, but not from the Arabs. "They are very careful not to appear anti-Semitic."

Last year, the door of the CJSU office was daubed with swastikas and, at a Kristallnacht display this year, Pinker says Jewish students were insulted and accused of mistreating the Palestinians. "It's there. It's not only behind our backs," he says.

Pinker attributes the wide open style at Concordia to a tradition of liberalism and of attracting the unconventional student. "This represents both challenges and opportunities."

Among Jewish students themselves, there is a broad range of opinion. One can equally find the CIC-sponsored publication *Dateline*, as *Greenline*, a publication of the Progressive Zionist Caucus. "We have our share of enthusiastic and apathetic students," Pinker says.

CJSU is the only officially recognized Jewish organization at Concordia, and has club status and its own office. It has about 300 names on its mailing list. "Everything held on campus of a Jewish nature has to go through us," says Pinker.

With so many part-time students, Pinker says it's difficult to reach many of the Jewish students believed to be out there.

CJSU activities run the gamut from social to religious to educational. (Concordia now has full use of Hillel House.)

Recent programs included bringing in Canadian Simon Wiesenthal Centre representative Sol Littman, the construction of a sukkah and an information booth about the High Holidays, a '60s style casino night and an Operation Exodus fundraiser. Average attendance at CJSU events is in the 50-70 range, he said.

• • •

The CIC's Israel on Campus program helps coordinate Israel-related events at all Montreal area colleges with a significant Jewish population. Regional director Terry Kaspi-Elituv said the CIC in Quebec has a program budget of about $50,000 and some 75 percent of that goes to campus activities.

The goal is to equip Jewish students with the knowledge to counter Arab propaganda, as well as to bring the Israeli perspective to the general student population. A 20-member committee of students ("from the left and the right") works with the CIC on the program.

The Israel on Campus program was launched about three years ago when the conflict between Arabs and Jews at Concordia was at its height. "The Jewish students were really feeling attacked," Kaspi-Elituv said. "Since the Gulf War, things have eased up."

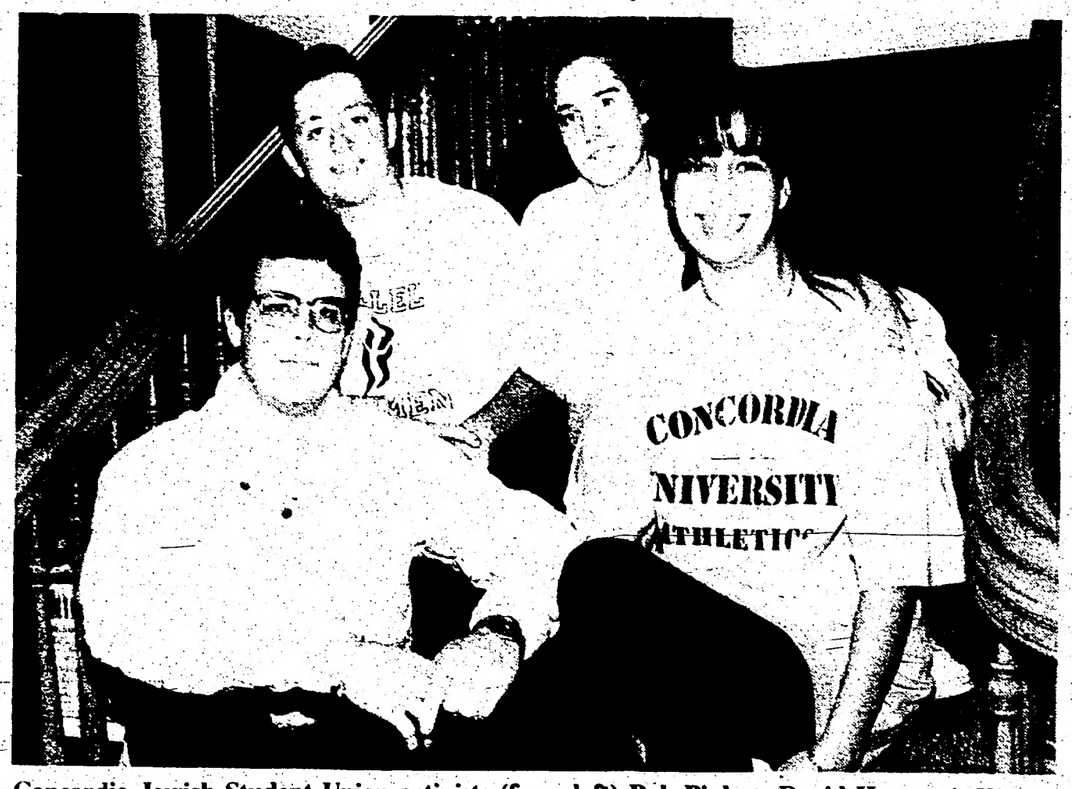
It works closely with the independent Canadian Institute for Jewish Research, whose founding director, Concordia professor Fred Krantz, originated the idea of campus coordination and of the *Dateline publication*.

• • •

Rabbi Ronnie Fine, director of Chabad House on Peel Street, says his goal is to give students a taste of traditional family life. He and his wife Chana and their seven children live above the house on Peel Street. "I've seen many students become religious after they've experienced a wholesome family life."

Chabad runs a kosher restaurant, Shabbat programs, Jewish studies classes, counselling, and the house serves as an informal drop-in centre.

"We're bringing a little Jewish life and flavor to campus," he said.



Concordia Jewish Student Union activists (from left) Rob Pinker, David Hamaoui, Wendy Kraminer and Yael Azuelles say their university's free-wheeling atmosphere offers opportunites and challenges. [Howard Kay photo]

Lawyers for CJC and B'nai Brith Canada recently argued in support of the constitutionality of the "false news" law under which Holocaust-denier Ernst Zundel has been convicted. Seen here are (from left) Congress lawyer Neil Finkelstein and B'nai Brith lawyers Marvin Kurz and Mark Sandler. [Paul Lungen photo]

Judges voice concerns over 'false news' law

By
PAUL LUNGEN

TORONTO —

Lawyers arguing for the constitutionality of Canada's "false news" law under which Holocaust-denier Ernst Zundel was convicted last week came under close questioning by judges of the Supreme Court of Canada, who referred to "problems" with the section and its "broad reach."

The false news law, (Section 181 of the Criminal Code) has built-in safeguards, responded Crown attorney James Blacklock. No-one can be convicted unless what they said was false, they knew it to be false and the effect of the lie adversely affects a public interest, he said.

Courts must have a concern for a peaceful, secure, harmonious community, he said.

Zundel, a pro-Nazi publisher living in Toronto, is appealing his 1988 conviction for publishing false news that is likely to cause an injury to the public interest in social and racial tolerance. He was convicted for publishing and distributing a pamphlet, *Did Six Million Really Die?* which claims the Holocaust was a hoax designed to enrich the State of Israel through reparations payments.

Victoria lawyer Doug Christie, who is representing Zundel, argued that the law violates Charter rights to freedom of expression. It also offends the right to natural justice, he said, since the section is so broad and vague that it is unclear what sort of conduct is prohibited.

In his one-hour address to the court, Christie argued that the uncertainty of what is a "public interest" allows the Crown to name it at its "whim."

He said the law limits free speech and that allowing a court to determine what is true or false in history would be undemocratic.

Calling the law "an instrument of thought control," Christie said it allows for conviction based on a person's opinions about events.

In addition to Zundel and Ontario Crown prosecutors, other parties to address the court included the Canadian Civil Liberties Association (CCLA), which argued against the constitutionality of the law, while Canadian Jewish Congress, B'nai Brith Canada, the Government of Canada and the province of Manitoba argued in support of the law.

Mark Rosenberg, representing the CCLA, said the problem with the section is that it "potentially impairs legitimate expression" and has "a chilling effect" on expressing views.

Blacklock argued that deliberate lies are not covered by the Charter guarantee of free expression, since that is not related to the core purpose of the Charter right — the sincere manifestation of personal conscience and beliefs.

He said that if the court decides false statements are a form of expression that are constitutionally protected, then Section 1 of the Charter (which permits violations of Charter rights if they are in society's best interests) would operate, since the law is designed to protect public peace, order and harmony.

Mark Sandler, representing B'nai Brith, responded to questions from the bench about whether any injury resulted from the pamphlet by saying "Zundel's activities cannot be seen in isolation."

The lies he repeats have endured over long periods and are used to deligitimize vulnerable groups. Zundel's "use of history is simply a masquerade for a deceit," Sandler said, adding that Zundel shouldn't be able to immunize himself by arguing that history is uncertain.

Neil Finkelstein, representing Congress, said the focus of the offence is not to restrict expression but to protect against the consequences of false statements.

You can tell all the lies you want and not be in violation of the law if there are no adverse social consequences, he argued.

As a landed immigrant, Zundel, who retains his German citizenship, is liable for deportation if he has to serve his nine month jail sentence.

Deportation proceedings were initiated in 1985 after his first trial and conviction, but were put on hold pending the final outcome of his case.

Hungary to redress survivors

By
RON CSILLAG

TORONTO —

A Hungarian law designed to compensate those whose property, business or land was seized by the Nazis during World War II will likely mimic another law that will indemnify Hungarian victims of Communist collectivization, say two Canadian experts.

After eight months of bitter debate, Hungary recently passed a law enabling its citizens and expatriates to file for compensation for properties seized following the Communist takeover in 1949.

The deadline for filing claims under the law was Dec. 16.

Hungary's parliament was due to pass a law on Nov. 30 pushing the compensation period back to 1939, which would allow Hungarian Holocaust survivors worldwide, as well as their descendants or surviving spouses, to claim redress for Jewish properties confiscated and "Aryanized" by the Germans.

Hungary did not pass the law as scheduled but a draft version indicates it will be similar to the Communist law, says Peter Mogan, a Vancouver lawyer who is handling claims.

Both laws will provide land vouchers to anyone proving their claim, Mogan told *The CJN*.

The vouchers will be transferable and by the time the 1939 law is passed, Hungary's currency, the forint, will probably be convertible on Western money markets, he added.

The problem, however, is that Hungarian nationals, both at home and abroad, are not taking advantage of the 1949 law, Mogan noted.

Hungary expected some two million claims, but so far, just 100,000 have been received in Budapest.

In Canada, Mogan estimates that as many as 50,000 expatriates would be eligible under the 1949 law. The number who have filed claims is between 2,500 and 5,000, he estimates.

As Mogen sees it, the problem is that many Hungarians who had properties nationalized by the Communists are cynical when it comes to restitution by the current regime.

A "disincentive" to filing claims, he says, is the slim monetary value of the vouchers. The maximum return on a single confiscated property will be roughly $75,000 but only the first $3,000 in value will be compensated at 100 percent, with just 10 percent paid on assets valued at above $7,500.

That means the average compensation package will be between $5,000 and $10,000 in land vouchers, Mogan said.

The law rolling the compensation period back to 1939 will resemble the 1949 law, but Hungary is finding itself "in an incredible legislative flux. It's going to be a bureaucratic nightmare."

Legislators are pondering how filers will prove their claim, he said. Since there is little documentation on seizures from the Nazi period, evidence will probably be by affidavit, he said.

Mogan, who recently returned from Budapest, said Hungary is also considering a law that will compensate, in cash, Hungarians who were deported and experienced loss of freedom, or descendants of those killed in concentration, labor or death camps.

Mogan concedes that may be overly ambitious, as an estimated 450,000 Jews of Greater Hungary's pre-war Jewish population of 650,000 died under German occupation or were murdered in death camps.

John Syrtash, a Toronto lawyer who is also handling claims, says he has received "an overwhelming response" from Hungarian-Canadians about the 1949 law.

He agrees that the law pushing the compensation period back to 1939 will set out the same guidelines.

He says there are thousands of Canadian Jews of Hungarian birth or extraction who could be eligible for restitution.

While waiting for the law to be passed, the eligible "should do some good research" into their confiscated property, Syrtash advises.

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פון אהרון פיינער

היינטיקן חודש ווערט 50 יאָר זינט דער ברוטאַלער סאָוועטישער סטאַלין־רעזשים האָט אויף אַ געהיימען פחדנישן אופן דערמאָרדעט די צוויי פירער פון פוילישן „בונד", די אָנגעזעענע און באַליבטע וועג־ווייזער פֿון יידישן ישוב אין פוילן, הענריק ערליך און וויקטאָר אַלטער.

געשען איז דאָס אין דעצעמבער 1941, ווען די יידן אין פוילן זיינען טאָג־טעגלעך אָפּגעגאַנגען אין בלוט, אין קאַמף קעגן די נאַצי־באַרבאַרן, פאַר זייער פיזישן קיום און מענטשלעכן כבוד. אין די טרויעריקע טעג האָבן די געוועזענע שותפים פון היטלערן, די סטאַלי־ניסטישע מושלים פון קרעמל, באַשלאָסן צו ליקווידירן די צווי פראָמינענטע סאָציאַליסטישע פערזענלעכקייטן, נישט נאָר דורך דערשיסן זיי, נאָר אויך דורך באַשמוצן זייער אָנדענק און כבוד, און דערמיט אויך דעם כבוד פון דער יידישער אַרבעטער באַוועגונג אין פוילן. זיי האָבן אויסגעטראַכט דעם בלוט־בילבול, אַז ערליך און אַלטער זיינען געווען שפּיאָנען, פריער פון דער פוילישער פאַשיסטישער פּאָליציי און שפּעטער פון די דייטשן און האָבן געוראפן די סאָוועטישע זעלנער אָפּצושטעלן דאָס שיסן קעגן די דייטשן־און־שלייסן־א שלום מיט זיי. א נאָרמאַל דענקענדיקער מענטש קען זיך קוים פאָרשטעלן די געמיינקייט און דעם אומזון פון דאָזיקן בילבול.

ווען די היטלעריסטישע באַנדיטן זיינען באַפאַלן פוילן אין סעפּטעמבער 1939, זיינען ערליך און אַלטער, צוזאַמען מיט טויזנטער יידן, אַוועק פון ברענענדיקן וואַרשע, בכדי פון מזרח וויטער צו פירן דעם קאַמף קעגן די דייטשע אַנגרייפערס. לויטן סטאַלין־היטלער אָפּמאַך זיינען די סאָוועטישע זעלנער אַריבער די מזרח־גרענעצן פון פוילן און פאַרנומען האַלב פוילן און עס אַנעקסירט צום ראַטן־פאַרבאַנד. ערליך און אַלטער זיינען דאָן אַרעסטירט געוואָרן און פאַר־משפט געוואָרן צום טויט. דער טויט אורטייל איז אָבער נישט אויסגעפירט געוואָרן, און נאָכדעם ווי די דייטשן האָבן אָנגעהויבן די מלחמה קעגן דעם סאָוועטן־לאַנד, זיינען ערליך און אַלטער, אויף דער פאָדערונג פון דער פוילישער גלות־רעגירונג, באַפרייט געוואָרן. זיי האָבן זיך דאָן געוואָנדן צו דער סאָוועטישער רעגירונג מיטן פאָרשלאָג צו שאַפן דעם יידישן אַנטי־פאַשיסטישן קאָמיטעט, מיט דער אויפגאַבע צו מאָבילזירן די יידן פון דער וועלט צום קאַמף קעגן די נאַצישע מערדער. די אונטערהאַנדלונגען זיינען געפירט געוואָרן מיטן פאָרשטייער פון דער סאָוועטישער רעגירונג, דעם פירער פון דער נ.ק.וו.ד., בעריאַ. הענריק ערליך איז באַשטימט געוואָרן אַלס פאָרזיצער פון קאָמיטעט, שלמה מיכאָעלס אַלס וויצע־פאָרזיצער און ויקטאָר אַלטער אַלס סעקרעטאַר.

דער מעמאָראַנדום וועגן די טעטיקייטן פון קאָמיטעט איז געשיקט געוואָרן צו סטאַלינען פאַר באַשטעטיקונג. אין דער נאַכט פון 3־טן אויפן 4־טן דעצעמבער, 1941, זיינען ערליך און אַלטער געפון געוואָרן צו אַ זיצונג און זיינען מער נישט צוריקגעקומען.

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ערליך און אַלטער דאַרפן נישט די ריינוואַשונג פון סאָוועטישן רעזשים. זיי זיינען אויף אייביק פאַרבליבן אין דער געשיכטע פון דער יידישער אַרבעטער באַ־וועגונג און פון יידישן פאָלק, ווי סימבאָלן פון קאַמף פאַר אַ שענערער און גערעכטער וועלט.

People on the Move

Longtime B'nai Brith Canada leader **David Matas** has been elected president of the Canadian Council for Refugees (CCR), an umbrella organization representing over 100 groups concerned for refugees.

Matas, an internationally renowned lawyer from Winnipeg, is currently honorary senior counsel for B'nai Brith Canada and chairman of its war crimes committee. His community involvement includes extensive work with Amnesty International and the Canadian Bar Association, and he is author of the books *Closing the Doors: The Failure of Refugee Protection, Justice Delayed: Nazi War Criminals in Canada*, and *The Sanctuary Trial*.

"As a Jewish human rights organization, we are well aware of the suffering of previous generations because of restricted immigration and refugee policies," said Marilyn Wainberg, national president of B'nai Brith Canada. "During this period of rising intolerance worldwide towards refugees, fair policies are no less important. David Matas supports a just and effective refugee determination system and will no doubt do an outstanding job as president of the CCR."

Matas is B'nai Brith's representative to the CCR.

* * *

Helen Pinsky has been named chairman of the resolutions committee of Canadian Jewish Congress Pacific region. She has sent a letter to all the communities in the region asking for suggested resolutions to be presented at the CJC Plenary in May.

Pinsky has set a deadline of Dec. 23 for the submission of resolutions to the Congress office in Vancouver.

These resolutions will be reviewed by a committee and brought to the January meeting of the region's executive committee for approval, before being sent to the national office for consideration.

Pinsky says the resolutions must be consistent with the aims and objectives of Congress which include: developing the highest standards of participation in the democratic process by the Canadian Jewish community and carrying on and participating in activities of a national, cultural and humanitarian nature; to investigate anti-Semitism and to devise means of overcoming its influence universally and in Canada in particular; and to promote the growth of a spirit of toleration, understanding and goodwill between all segments of society within a multicultural Canada.

A major CJC objective also, says Pinsky, is to raise funds by contributions, subscriptions, gifts, legacies and grants for the objects of CJC or for any special purpose it may determine or as may be directed by donors, "consistent with these objectives."

* * *

Dr. Morton R. Lang, president of the Eastern Canada region, United Synagogue of Conservative Judaism, has been elected national president of the Canadian Council of Conservative Judaism, the umbrella organization of Conservative Jewry in Canada.

The United Synagogue Biennial Convention, of which Lang served as vice-chairman, was held on Nov. 17-21 at the Concord Hotel, in Kiamesha Lake, N.Y. The theme of the convention Making Conservative Judaism Count: Searching for Meaning, Reflecting on Life, Living with God, was addressed in plenaries, discussion groups and seminars.

A former president of Congregation Beth El, Town of Mt. Royal, Que., Lang was a founding president of the Solomon Schechter Academy in Montreal, and was also the first and only Canadian to be international president of the Federation of Jewish Men's Clubs. Lang received the Queen's Silver Jubilee medal for exemplary community service.

One of Lang's tasks will be to solidify and unify the Conservative Movement from coast to coast in Canada and, particularly, to concentrate on issues facing Canadian Jewry.

Name Game

There is a story in almost every Jewish surname and Toronto lawyer FRED M. CATZMAN has been researching their origins over the past few years. Mr. Catzman reports on his research in The CJN.

INGSTER

Danielle Ingster, of Willowdale, is trying to discover the origin of her surname. A few years ago she saw a Rabbi Ingster on TV in a renovated synagogue in Germany, so she believes the name was not altered from the original, and clearly does not derive from the English name Inkster.

While I can find no reference to the name Ingster, I feel warranted to make an educated guess.

Inger is the Jewish word for younger (junger in German) and was adopted to designate a younger son. It is in the same category as Elter, which denotes an older son.

Logically, if there were more than two children, the youngest would be Ingster, the superlative form of the comparative Inger. It would be the equivalent of youngest (not youngster).

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Around The World

The News In Brief

Settler wounded

JERUSALEM — Gunmen fired at an Israeli car on the road to Elon Moreh last week, slightly wounding one woman passenger in the shoulder.

The incident occurred when the car, carrying three passengers, was climbing a hill to the settlement, northeast of Nablus. It confronted a stone obstacle in the road, and, as it slowed down, several shots were fired at it, settlers said.

* * *

Soup kitchens needed

JERUSALEM — Hungry immigrants and the need for soup kitchens were very much on the minds of Jewish Agency aliyah co-ordinators meeting at Kibbutz Ma'aleh Hahamisha near Jerusalem.

Herzl Smadar, an absorption co-ordinator in Karmiel, said the municipality set up one soup kitchen in October, and will shortly set up another.

Karmiel has absorbed 6,000 immigrants since 1990, representing a 20 percent increase in the town's population. Almost a quarter of the newcomers are unemployed.

* * *

AIDS test for marriage

TEL AVIV — Israel's Sephardi Chief Rabbi has ordered every Jewish couple in the Diaspora to be tested before marriage for infection with the virus that causes AIDS.

But the halachic rulling, issued by Sephardic Chief Rabbi Mordechai Eliahu, exempts Israelis for the time being, on the grounds that the sexually-transmitted disease is less prevalent here than elsewhere.

Meanwhile, Tel Aviv's safe-sex education campaign suffered a setback when the municipal board that approves outdoor advertising bowed to religious pressure to remove a poster featuring a condom with a smiling face at its tip.

Rabbi Mordechai Eliahu

* * *

AIDS hospitals can tell spouses

JERUSALEM — The heads of Israel's seven hospital AIDS testing centres have been authorized to inform the spouses, sexual partners or others who could be infected by an HIV-positive person.

The danger of AIDS exposure thus supersedes a patient's right to privacy. The new rule is not foolproof, however, because while those tested for HIV are asked to identify themselves, they can (and often do) give a false identity number and cannot be traced.

Current regulations require any doctor, if so requested, to undergo tests to determine whether he has a disease that could be dangerous to others, including AIDS. Health Ministry director Dr. Moshe Mashiah said the ministry "is unaware" of any physician who has AIDS, but a hospital director who learns of such a case must report it.

Mashiah said that of those patients with AIDS 106 of them have died, more than 70 were homosexuals, followed by 20 intravenous drug users, eight homosexual drug users, 16 heterosexuals, 23 hemophiliacs (infected before the clotting Factor 8 was rid of HIV) and three children infected by their mothers.

* * *

Concern mounts for Arad

JERUSALEM — Israel Television broadcast a videotaped interview with Sheik Abdel Karim Obeid, the Shi'ite religious leader from southern Lebanon held captive in Israel for more than two years.

The purpose of the broadcast was to emphasize that Obeid's freedom depends upon the fate of Ron Arad, an Israel air force navigator shot down over Lebanon in 1986.

Arad is the only one of seven Israeli servicemen missing in Lebanon who is believed to be alive. But concern has grown recently because of the lack of information as to his whereabouts.

* * *

Germany retains pensions

BONN — Government and opposition parties joined forces in the Bundestag to retain the special pensions paid to victims of Nazism in what had been East Germany before unification.

The government had announced plans to scrap the pensions instituted by East Germany because they are incompatible with the national pension program, which is based on former West German practice.

According to the proposed legislation, the 10,000 beneficiaries would continue to receive monthly allowances of 1,400 marks — about $868.

* * *

Auschwitz exhibit opens

UNITED NATIONS — Outgoing UN Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar officially opened an exhibit on the Auschwitz death camp here Dec. 10, which was International Human Rights Day.

"The message of the Auschwitz exhibit is not to forget," said Perez de Cuellar. "Because it is so unimaginable but so true, our response is to remember, to repeat, to recall in our human efforts, to say: Never again."

The exhibit, titled "Auschwitz: A Crime Against Humanity," will be on public display in the lobby of the General Assembly building through Jan. 31.

* * *

Nimrodi wants Ma'ariv

JERUSALEM — Ya'acov Nimrodi has offered the administrators of the late Robert Maxwell's assets $13 million for the purchase of *Ma'ariv* newspaper, the Israeli entrepreneur has said.

Meanwhile, the Israeli representative of Hollinger's chairman and chief executive officer Conrad Black met with Alan Katz, representative of the administrators of Maxwell's assets.

The owner of the London Daily Telegraph, as well as a number of newspapers in North America, is reported to be one of the potential purchasers of the Mirror Group, parent company of *Ma'ariv*.

* * *

Protest over Wagner

TEL AVIV — A public furor has arisen over the Israel Philharmonic Orchestra's (IPO) announcement that it will perform two works by Richard Wagner in a special concert later this month.

The state-sponsored orchestra in fact voted 39-12, with nine abstentions, to lift its ban on the works of the 19th-century German composer, an avowed anti- Semite whose music was idolized by Adolf Hitler.

The IPO management agreed to excuse any member of the orchestra who does not want to take part.

* * *

Israeli artist dies

TEL AVIV — Moshe Castel, a Jerusalem-born artist who achieved world renown and helped establish the famous artist's colony in Safed, died Dec. 12. His age was reported as either 82 or 85.

He was born to a prominent family descended from Castilian Jews that were expelled from Spain in 1492 and settled in Palestine.

Although his paintings hung in major museums and art galleries around the world, Castel was largely ignored in his native land during his final years.

* * *

Cost of living rises

TEL AVIV — The cost-of-living index rose by a barely perceptible 0.1 percent in November, an encouraging sign of lower inflation.

The figure was said to be one of the lowest monthly rises ever recorded. It was attributed mainly to a seasonal drop in the price of fruits and vegetables and a small decline in housing costs.

* * *

Shi'ite gunman killed

TEL AVIV — A clash in the southern Lebanon security zone has left one Shi'ite gunman dead and four soldiers of the Israeli-backed South Lebanon Army slightly wounded.

It occurred Dec. 11, when an SLA patrol came under automatic fire in the Kantara region and returned the fire.

The body of a man believed to have been the leader of a band of infiltrators was found in the area with personal weapons, ammunition and a portable radio.

The Iranian-backed Hezbollah, or Party of God, has increased attacks on Israeli and SLA troops patrolling the security zone to register its opposition to the Arab-Israeli peace talks now taking place in Washington.

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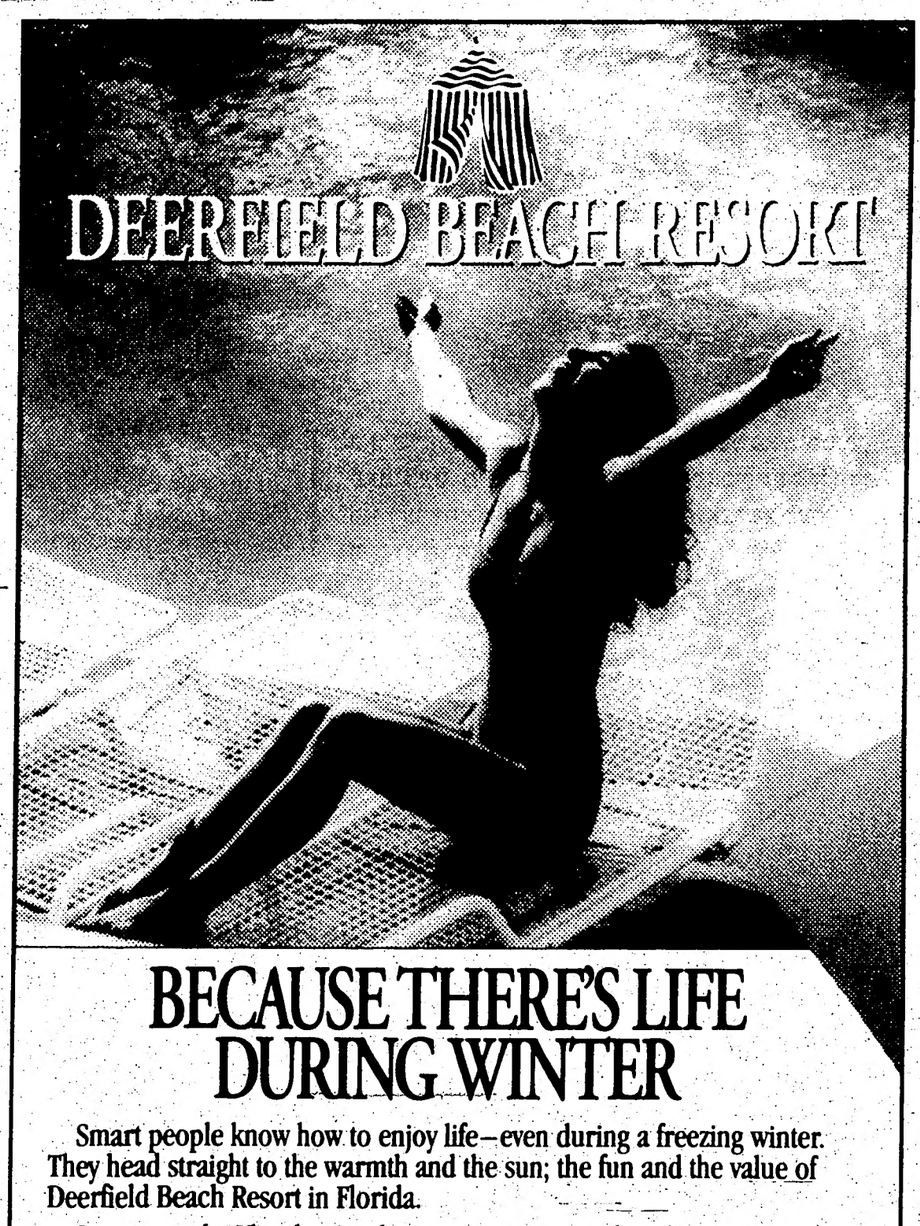

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World

TWO GREAT CITIES

The synagogue arch of Jerusalem's Jewish Quarter was brought to Toronto by the Israel Government Tourist Office and transported via El Al Israel Airlines. Seen at Bay and Lakeshore is one of eight billboards around Toronto reflecting the idea of Israel's old and new. The other boards inlude Masada, Caesarea and Tiberias. [Rough Layout photo]

Decline in aliyah attributed to concerns over employment

JERUSALEM (JTA) —

Officials at Israel's Absorption Ministry are blaming unemployment for the recent decline in Soviet aliyah.

A total of 8,090 immigrants arrived from the Soviet Union in November. That was 1,755 fewer than in October, continuing a decline that began last June when aliyah reached 20,473, its monthly high for the year.

An additional 3,344 Soviet Jews immigrated to the United States, according to figures provided by the Hebrew Immigrant Aid Society in New York.

The latest figures for Soviet immigrants to Israel brought to 134,646 the number of Soviet olim who arrived here in the first 11 months of this year. Clearly, the 1991 total will not match last year's record of 181,759.

Pessimism was rampant last month, mainly because of seemingly bleak prospects in the job market.

Deputy Labor Minister Menahem Porush estimated present unemployment in Israel at 145,000 and predicted it would exceed 200,000 next year. The Finance Ministry said there were 90,000 jobless last month.

But the figures do not necessarily speak for themselves, according to *Yediot Achronot's* economics editor, Sever Plotzker, who believes the unemployment crisis has been overblown.

Plotzker pointed out that during 18 months of Soviet aliyah, 140,000 persons joined Israel's labor force, of whom 100,000 were new immigrants.

In that period, the business sector created 90,000 jobs and the public and service sectors 30,000. Of those 120,000 new jobs, fully half — 60,000 — were filled by new immigrants.

Plotzker pointed out that unemployment among veteran Israelis declined from 160,000 in 1990 to 150,000 in 1991, reducing the annual rate from 9.6 to nine percent.

Those who remain unemployed are hard-core victims of the recession of the 1980s, the hardest hit being women.

Soviets' plight known back home

About 60,000 women were unemployed prior to the latest wave of Soviet aliyah. In the last quarter, their numbers jumped to 85,000, including 15,000 to 20,000 mainly older women olim.

Jewish Agency officials believe that deteriorating conditions in the Soviet Union will trigger a new wave, bringing in more than 20,000 immigrants a month.

For now, the biggest headache is the estimated 40,000 jobless Soviet olim.

An overwhelming proportion of them are engineers, scientists and performing artists. Their plight, known to relatives and friends back home, is convincing many potential olim to postpone their departure.

"The influx of such large numbers of professionals has distorted the per capita ratio between locally trained personnel and the number of jobs available for them in the existing Israeli labor market," explained Grace Moussia, director of employment services at the Soviet Jewry Zionist Forum.

"If, for example, Israeli engineers constituted three percent of the labor force, this ratio has shot up to 40 percent since the Soviet influx," she said.

But she played down recurrent Israeli media stories of abysmal poverty among olim.

"These are probably isolated cases of people with a history of family and personal problems in the Soviet Union. The vast majority of new olim are keeping afloat, but their difficult situation is worsening," Moussia said.

She pointed out, however, that few Soviet immigrants will accept work in Israel's expanding construction industry, which the Building Contractors Association says will absorb 15,000 Israelis and 5,000 olim trainees in 1992.

Moussia said that "finding work for Soviet doctors, which has given Israel six times as many as she needs, is proving less of a problem."

"They have been more vocal in attracting public attention and are turning to paramedics, nursing, social work and geriatrics," she said.

U.S. patients allowed to refuse treatment

NEW YORK (JTA) —

A new U.S. law giving patients a greater say in the type of medical treatment they may accept or refuse has prompted Jewish religious groups to prepare a range of guidance materials to help their members face such decisions.

The law, which went into effect Dec. 1, enables patients to refuse specific medical treatments, even if they are incapacitated, by putting their wishes in writing while they are able.

Patients can also use an advance directive, or proxy, to designate a family member or friend to make decisions on their behalf if they become too ill to make them themselves.

The Patient Self-Determination Act, as the federal law is known, requires hospitals, nursing homes and other medical institutions receiving federal funding to inform patients of their rights. But it does not require patients to fill out a living will or to list a health-care proxy.

For Jews, the law means that they can direct doctors to consult with their rabbis before beginning or ending treatment. And it means they can be explicit about keeping their treatment in line with Jewish tradition and values.

Twenty-four percent of Americans presently have a living will, proxy or both, according to Joel Roselin, a spokesman for Choice in Dying, a New York-based patient-advocacy group.

Every state but Nebraska and Pennsylvania has passed laws requiring medical care-givers to abide by advance directives; 45 honor living wills and 43 honor the appointment of health-care proxies.

But Roselin believes every American should have a living will, even those in states without laws requiring medical care-givers to abide by advance directives.

That is because in the wake of the Supreme Court's ruling last year in the Nancy Cruzan case, the courts are now likely to rule in the patients' favor, if they provide clear and convincing evidence of their wishes.

Cruzan was the Missouri woman who survived in a vegetative state for seven years after an auto accident. Missouri would not allow her parents to remove a feeding tube, because she had never explicitly told her friends or family that she would not want to be fed through a tube.

The Supreme Court ruled that it is a constitutional right to refuse medical care if clear and convincing evidence of the patient's wishes is provided.

In response to the new law, the various Jewish religious movements are now in the process of designing and distributing living wills that conform to their legal and ethical standards.

For its members and other interested parties, the Reform movement has put together a 44-page booklet called *A Time to Prepare*.

In the view of the Reform movement, "each individual has the ethical, moral and legal right to make his or her own health-care decisions."

A Time to Prepare includes a detailed health-care directive and space to designate a proxy and detail instructions for organ donation.

But the booklet is more than instructions for death — it is a life-cycle guidebook.

It provides space to detail a personal history and to list specific people to notify immediately after death, including relatives and close friends, a rabbi, a funeral director, even a bank trust officer and pall bearers.

On several pages, space is provided for specific instructions to a rabbi and to a funeral director about what kind of burial the person would like.

There are also chapters on the Jewish view of the dignity and sanctity of life, on ethical wills and one with a suggested ritual for saying goodbye when a patient is near death.

Ethical wills are a way for someone to leave an explicit version of his or her spiritual and moral legacy, according to Rabbi Richard Address, the editor of the guide.

They are a way "to pass on guidelines and advice on how to live an ethical and decent life," said Address, who is staff representative for the Union of American Hebrew Congregations on its committees on Bio-Medical Ethics and the Synagogue as a Caring Community.

The Conservative and Reconstructionist movements plan to make their own versions of a living will available shortly.

The Union for Traditional Judaism, an organization of traditional Conservative and modern Orthodox Jews, has been disseminating its version of a living will since 1989, when the Cruzan case was in the headlines.

The Rabbinical Council of America, a centrist Orthodox rabbinic organization, is putting the finishing touches on two living wills — one general and the other more detailed — which it plans to make available later this month.

The general directive has room for the designation of a health-care agent and instructions directing the agent to consult with an Orthodox halachic authority before making decisions.

The detailed version lists several possible medical scenarios involving brain damage and the treatments that the person filling it out would want to accept or refuse.

Syrians expel Beate Klarsfeld

PARIS —

Nazi-hunter Beate Klarsfeld has returned safely to Paris after being expelled from Syria, where she went to protest the haven given Nazi war criminal Alois Brunner and the denial of the emigration rights of Syrian Jews.

Although she was confined to her hotel room under house arrest after demonstrating outside the Interior Ministry in Damascus, Klarsfeld believes her mission was not in vain.

Its purpose was to force French Foreign Minister Roland Dumas to raise the issue of Brunner during his official visit to Syria on Dec. 19, she told the Jewish Telegraphic Agency.

Brunner, who commanded the Drancy detention centre near Paris, where French Jews were herded for deportation to Auschwitz, is one of the few major Nazi war criminals still at large.

Sentenced in absentia to death for mass murder, he has lived for the past 30 years under an alias in a villa in Damascus.

But on Oct. 15 he disappeared from those premises. The Syrian authorities, who consistently have denied that Brunner ever lived there, are reportedly trying to ease him out of the country to improve their image in the West.

DRUGS WASHED ASHORE

A detective at Ramat Gan shows a sample of the 40 kilograms of hashish which washed ashore recently north of Tel Aviv packed inside a large tire innertube. The haul, said to be worth about $100,000 (U.S.) on the drug market, is thought to be of Far Eastern origin and was probably intended to be picked up by somebody on the beach but something went wrong. [IPPA photo]

Violence erupts in territories

[Cont'd. from page 1]

swept through Ramallah for the second time since Dec. 9, smashing the windows of two homes and the windshields of eight Arab-owned cars.

Several settlers were detained for questioning but soon released.

Later Sunday, settlers in the Hebron area boasted that they had damaged 20 Arab vehicles in Hebron and nearby Halhoul.

A group calling itself the Committee for Security on the Roads, which is associated with the late Rabbi Meir Kahane's extremist Kach movement, took credit.

Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir condemned such actions Sunday, saying they were "not necessary."

Defence Minister Moshe Arens used somewhat stronger language, saying that vigilantism contributes nothing to security and warning that those who engaged in such activities would be prosecuted.

Arens made his statement near Eilon Moreh, where he met with angry left-wing Knesset members, who complained that government was doing little to stop anti-Arab violence by Jews in the territories.

Yossi Sarid of the Citizens Rights Movement said the settlers have begun an "uprising" against the state and its elected institutions.

If the government doesn't act to "suppress" it immediately, that will mean the "end of the democratic system in Israel, and things may develop into a civil war," he warned.

Sarid and fellow CRM member Dedi Zucker were in the area to plant olive trees in place of those uprooted last week by angry settlers.

But the settlers later uprooted the new trees and replanted them inside Eilon Moreh. Settlement leader Benny Katzover accused Sarid of "siding with Arab miscreants."

Meanwhile, the Jerusalem Magistrates Court issued a temporary injunction Friday ordering Jewish settlers to vacate one of the five Arab homes they occupied in Silwan pending a court ruling on its ownership.

The court limited the number of settlers allowed to stay in a second building to 10. It acted in response to complaints by two Arab families who said they were the legitimate tenants.

The settlers argued that the buildings belonged to two Arab families who departed the country in 1967. That left them in possession of the state, which, in turn, gave the Jewish families the right to move in.

Silwan remained quiet over the weekend. Hundreds of Israeli sightseers went there Saturday to inspect the scene of the controversy. A group of Peace Now activists visited, escorted by Palestinian leader Faisal Husseini.

Holocaust toll may be revised

JERUSALEM —

The Holocaust may have claimed 250,000 more Jews than the widely accepted figure of 6 million, long-hidden Soviet documents show.

The documents, including testimony from Jewish survivors of the Nazi occupation of the Soviet Union and Soviet war chronicles, are being studied at the Yad Vashem Holocaust Memorial here.

Shmuel Krakowski, Yad Vashem's head archivist, said the material reveals greater killings of Jews by Nazi Einsatzgruppen (mobile killing squads) and local collaborators than was believed.

He said the material reveals that "cruelty, mostly of the Germans, went beyond anything we knew of from other countries."

The material indicates that Jews' withdrawal from the Soviet Union was less successful than first thought.

The documents also show that after the Nazi pogroms, there existed about a dozen Jewish ghettos, where Jews were murdered later. Until now, it was thought only the Minsk ghetto and possibly a few others remained following the German invasion.

Krakowski said the documents could increase by 250,000 the number of Jewish Holocaust victims.

The documents include letters, diaries and memoirs turned over to Israel two years ago by the Soviet Union.

CHRISTIANS VISIT BURIAL SITE

A group of over 200 U.S.Christian pilgrims wait outside the Garden Tomb. This rock-hewn tomb in the old walled city of Jerusalem is believed by Christians to be the site of Jesus' burial. This year has probably seen more organized visits of Christian pilgrims to Israel than any other year. [IPPA photo]

Right-wing almost kills Israeli budget

JERUSALEM (JTA) —

Right-wing politicians, dissatisfied with funds for new settlements, almost killed Israel's controversial state budget bill, which passed its first reading in the Knesset Dec. 11 by just one vote.

The 48-47 tally in favor of the measure drew a sigh of relief from coalition floor managers, who were prepared to withdraw the measure at the last minute for fear of defeat.

That would have been tantamount to a no-confidence vote and could have forced Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir's government to resign.

Laborites were furious with one party member, Histadrut Secretary-General Yisrael Kessar, who might have turned the tide. He absented himself from the chamber and could not be located for the vote.

The budget bill came to the Knesset plenum two months late because of the time taken to resolve a bitter dispute among Likud's religious coalition partners.

The Zionist-affiliated National Religious Party refused to support the bill unless "special funding" for the schools of the haredi, or ultra-Orthodox, bloc were eliminated. The three haredi parties, in turn, warned they would defect if the funding were removed.

Tense negotiations, in which Shamir and Finance Minister Yitzhak Moda'i personally took part, produced an agreement last week.

The NRP, supported by a substantial number of Likud and opposition Knesset members, opposed special treatment of the ultra-Orthodox schools, which receive state monies but are not required to meet official criteria in terms of syllabus, facilities and management.

According to the agreement, future allocations must be approved on the basis of national standards guaranteeing equality for all pupils in the religious and secular school systems.

The funds will be funneled through government departments and, like all other disbursements by the state, under the supervision of the state comptroller.

The NRP has claimed a major victory. But some Knesset members complained that the change is largely cosmetic.

"It is there, but under different names," Haim Ramon, the ranking Labor Party member of the Knesset Finance Committee, said, referring to the "special funding."

The committee will now process the bill, but the legislation is not expected to be ready for a final vote by Jan. 1, the start of the new fiscal year.

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Jewish Life

By
RABBI MARK FRIEDMAN

One of the anomalies of Jewish law is that although the actual dates of the festivals are given in the Torah, the fixing of those dates was accomplished through human agency. This was determined via the setting of the new month (Judaism maintains a lunar calendar) which was declared by means of witnesses who, upon sighting the new moon, rushed to the Jerusalem Temple to testify. If the testimony was accepted, the court would then declare that a new month had begun.

There is a fascinating incident about this procedure found in the Mishnah. Rabban Gamliel, the head of the court, called the Sanhedrin, once accepted the testimony of two witnesses and declared a new month. But the following night the moon was no longer visible. Consequently, another member of the court, Rabbi Joshua, following the logic that a new moon cannot be seen on one day and disappear the next, made his own determination as to the beginning of the new month.

This was not a good situation with two calendars in use simultaneously and Rabban Gamliel moved quickly to assert his authority. He ordered Rabbi Joshua to observe as Yom Kippur the same date he and the rest of the community would be keeping. Rabban Gamliel also decreed that Rabbi Joshua appear before him on the date Rabbi Joshua had reckoned as Yom Kippur girded with his staff and money belt. Clearly, Rabbi Joshua was caught in a double bind. He was most distressed. His distress only increased when the famed Rabbi Akiva explained to him that if the month was begun on the wrong day, Rabban's Gamliel's decision would nevertheless be upheld because, according to our tradition, the Torah unconditionally placed the determination of the new month in the hands of the court, even if the court erred in its reckoning.

Thus enlightened, when the day Rabbi Joshua had determined to be Yom Kippur arrived, he heeded Rabban Gamliel's words and appeared before the head of the Sanhedrin. Rabban Gamliel greeted him warmly with these words: "Come in peace, my teacher and my disciple. My teacher in wisdom and my disciple because you have accepted my decision."

What we learn from this episode is the centrality the Torah gives to the commandment that we make our own calendar. A court's power can sometimes be greater than that of the constellations because it is the one central authority that must establish one calendar for all.

There is something else we learn from this prescription of the Torah and the story of the two rabbis. It is that we need to be sensitive to two different kinds of time in the universe — objective time in the tive time. G-d creates objective time, G-d determines the number of years a person lives or the length of a winter or summer in any given year. The creation of the universe — when time began — is celebrated during the month of Tishrei on Rosh Hashanah. This month is, from G-d's perspective, the first of the months. But the month of Nisan, the month in which the Israelites celebrated the first Passover and left the land of Egypt, symbolizes what we do with the time which G-d has given us. Concerning this month, the Torah declares: "This month is yours. . ." It is ours to proclaim, sanctify, and utilize. We can do with it as we wish. It is, indeed, subjective time.

Often, the struggle in our lives is between G-d's time and man's time. One person may have been granted only a short amount of time on earth and yet, that person accomplishes so much. Another person may live a very long life, yet, from the standpoint of subjective time, it is as if it did not exist because the time was not utilized positively and constructively.

The famed rabbi and scholar of the 19th century, the Chafetz Chaim, once compared the sweep of life to the writing of a postcard. When we begin with the salutation, we write whatever comes to mind in large letters. Gradually, we realize we have more to write than was originally planned. By this time, though, much of the card had already been used. So our script grows smaller and the words begin winding their way all over the card. We often run out of space before we can make the most important point. If we are fortunate, we can just about squeeze in our name.

We need to always bear in mind that we must take the objects of time, the hours, days, months, and years and make them our own. They take on meaning when they possess the wonderful imprints we have placed upon them through our lives and our deeds. If we spend our days "killing time," we commit a kind of suicide. But if we "create time," we give birth to life.

Rabbi Mark Friedman is rabbi of the Shaare Zedek Congregation in Montreal.

Gay synagogue causes stir

WASHINGTON (JTA) — Local Orthodox rabbis are angry that a gay synagogue was admitted to the Jewish Community Council and may resign to protest what they say is the approval of a Torah-abhorrent lifestyle.

Though publicly quiet now, Orthodox leaders representing various synagogues and organizations have indicated they are preparing a formal statement opposing the admission of Bet Mishpachah, a gay and lesbian synagogue in Washington. The protest could lead to a walkout if Bet Mishpachah remains a member, Orthodox leaders have said privately.

Bet Mishpachah was approved for membership in June by an overwhelming majority of the council, a 230-member body of metropolitan area Jewish organizations and synagogues.

At the time, leaders representing the Orthodox Rabbinical Council of Greater Washington tried unsuccessfully to delay the vote to consider the halachic implications and get reactions from the larger community.

At issue within the Orthodox and Conservative branches of Judaism are verses in Deuteronomy explicitly condemning homosexual acts between men. Orthodox leaders say they cannot approve of a synagogue that professes homosexuality as the basis of its organization.

Nathan Lewin, a Washington attorney and Orthodox Jew, has agreed to mediate the dispute.

"I'm hoping that this thing can be resolved sensibly," said Lewin, a member of Beth Sholom Synagogue and a nationally recognized advocate of First Amendment rights.

"There's a point that the Orthodox have; that this is clearly contrary to Jewish traditions and halachah," said Lewin, a past president of the council, adding that "the council has a policy of being an umbrella organization."

But he noted that the 52-year-old council once rejected the membership applications of Breira, a forerunner of the left-wing Peace Now organization, and the Jewish Defence League, an extreme right-wing group tha advocates violence.

"There's the question of whether Bet Mishpachah also goes too far," said Lewin. "Where does a gay synagogue fall on that spectrum?"

"NACHAS" BY MIRIAM LANAU
L. HART
CANADA
SHOSHANA
TO: ROSE GLICK
KIBBUTZ TOV
ISRAEL
Dear Rosie,
IT WAS GREAT TALKING TO YOU ON THE PHONE...
ITS AUNT LORNA, IN CANADA.
DOVI TALK! ME WANNA TALK! TALK! TALK!
WELL... SAY SOMETHING!
BUT, I MUST TRY TO WRITE MORE OFTEN!
LONG DISTANCE PHONE BILLS
ITS JUST THAT I'M A BIT OVER-SCHEDULED.
I DO LOOK FORWARD TO 'SHABBOS', THOUGH.
AND THE JOY IT BRINGS...
NO DEAR, I CAN'T DRIVE YOU TO THE VIDEO STORE NOW.
NOW
YESTERDAY
JUDAL
PAST DUE
I GOT CHALAH, GEFILTE FISH, AND MATZOH BALLS
YOU NEVER BUY ANY-THING GOOD!
BUBBY, WHAT'RE YOU CRYING FOR?
FOR JOY DARLING.
WISH YOU WERE HERE, Love Lorna
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Front Line

COMMENTARY

Israel, Gorbachev not faring well in 'New Order'

By
YESHAYAHU ANUG

The "New Order" is not doing well. Uncontrollable developments are drawing a different scenery whose characteristics are instability, unpredictability, and in some areas, even despair. Last year's horizons were brighter: The Cold War was over, won by the free world. Gorbachev was transforming the Soviet Union. Eastern Europe was free. Germany was peacefully reunited. Iraq was being crushed by an international coalition and for the first time, the Middle East was to engage in a real peace process.

Now, ironically, the ugly era of the Cold War seems to have been a safer period. The outcome of the crisis in the former Soviet Union is unclear, the peoples of Yugoslavia are bleeding, watched by a powerless western Europe, whose full political union is stalling and whose societies are threatened by rightist extremism and xenophobia.

Saddam is where he was and presumably experimenting with his deadly toys. The great victor of the Gulf War and leader of the one remaining superpower is preparing to fight hard a still unknown rival in the presidential elections, while most Americans are demanding quick solutions for America's social and economic ills and only seven percent — according to a latest poll — approve of the president's engagement in foreign affairs.

The Middle East is by and large unaffected by all these uncertainties. In this region the United States still has the clout to shape events. The power balance created by the Gulf War still facilitates efforts for some accommodation, but maybe not for much longer. Missing is the recognition by the parties to the conflict, that the dangers of the present situation are greater than the risks of compromise.

Some are dragging their feet in the hope that the world will be too busy with itself and forget the festering conflict here. Regardless of the yet unanswered question, whether the Arab side is in fact ready for peace, recent Israeli tactics, regarding procedural details of the peace talks, have left observers very confused.

Yeshayahu Anug

By quarrelling with Washington over trivialities, the Israeli tactics have helped the Arab side to undeservedly look better on TV screens than Israeli hasbara-stars. There will surely be, if the process continues, more real issues worth insisting on than whether the meetings take place in Washington or in Timbuktu, or whether they start on a Wednesday or on a Monday, simultaneously or separately.

What was the message behind Israel's apparent obstinacy on such marginal issues? Is Mr. Shamir opting out of the peace process? Ezer Weizmann thinks so. Or does the prime minister want to elicit the best deal from the Americans and from the Arabs for the smallest concessions, as some of Shamir fans would whisper in private. He is certainly torn between his firm commitment to the preservation of the entire Land of Israel and the conviction that the Americans have other designs, but that he cannot risk weakening the special American-Israeli relationship.

How can he square this circle? He cannot. Will he now bring about a government crisis and call for early elections to get some respite? I still think so, but cynics say that Mr. Shamir never does things which he can postpone. If they are right, Israel will have to face even more trouble and the public could react to the unsettled situation and to the worsening economic crisis by denying Likud the great electoral victory on which that party counts so much. As *Ma'ariv*, a paper not unfriendly to the government, puts it, "the government will enjoy broad public support for as long as the public believes that its manipulations are not meant to torpedo the peace conference."

And what if Mr. Shamir wants to wait and see? The international situation could now be on the verge of events more dramatic than anything that can possibly happen earlier in the Middle East. The worst-case scenario could be played in the former Soviet Union, which is not simply falling apart, but may be confronting a military coup, which, if successful, could restore dictatorship and even a new reign of vengeance.

Gorbachev is now fighting his last battle and is not exaggerating when he says that such a development in his own country could well affect world peace. But precisely because the world may have to control the fallout of such a catastrophe, there is a vital need to keep the Middle East from exploding. This is possible, but can be done only by talking and keeping alive the hope for peace.

The very opportunity to spend the problematic year 1992 in negotiations over establishing autonomy in the territories has given Israel, as I pointed out in a previous column, a period of grace. It will be wasted if not used to reach some understanding with the Bush administration on this issue.

The insistence on a minor American role in the peace talks is empty palaver, neither convincing nor realistic. There is no substitute for American intervention. All this may be occupational therapy for Mr. Shamir's reluctant coalition partners on the right, but if continuously appeased, Israeli rejection will end up dictating every move.

Extremist elements in the very nervous settler community in the territories, understandably shaken by recent terrorist murders, have recently accused the chief of staff of "defeatism" for saying that the army can not possibly guarantee 100 percent success in its prevention of terrorism. This is a very delicate and volatile situation and only a determined government, which does not hesitate to impose its political will, shall be able to maintain control of it. So far, it is not doing so well.

If the holiday season will put diplomacy on hold for a little while, all parties will have some time to think about the dead-end street into which they are manoeuvering themselves. Israel's political scene is already simmering over grave economic issues, such as budgetary priorities, the turmoil in the religious camp over appropriation of funds, unemployment and immigrant-absorption and the government offers no convincing solutions.

This is why many Israelis count now on an active peace process as the only way to attempt solving the country's serious problems. They know how difficult it will be to reach agreement with the Arabs, if at all. But they want a cool-headed leadership and are getting increasingly tired of political sloganry and indecision.

ANALYSIS

Germany struggles to regain its sense of identity

By
PATRICIA RUCKER

(First of a series)

On a warm, sunny day in early fall, a colleague and I strolled across the lawns in front of the Reichstag in Berlin. Somewhere a band played *Deutschland, Deutschland uber Alles;* small family groups walked up the broad steps and passed between massive columns, under the words *Dem Deutschen Volke*, to enter what is now the Reichstag Museum of German History. But first, many of them paused to read the names on the crosses in a small square beside the Reichstag:

Marienetta Jokowski	*22.11.1980*	*18 Jahre*
Peter Boecker	*9.7.1960*	*30.11.1984*
Dorit Schmiel	*19.2.1962*	
Chris Geoffroy	*6.2.88*	

Some of the passersby prayed, some left flowers, for the East Germans who died trying to be West Germans.

It was the first anniversary of unification and a little less than two years after the fall of the Berlin Wall. No more East Germans, or West Germans; as they proclaimed on that November night in 1989: Wir sind ein Volk — We are one people. One people, trying to put a country back together again.

The task is formidable. The contrast between east and west is startling, and stark. You see it in the drab East bloc architecture of postwar buildings and the still unrepaired, bullet-scarred walls of those that survived Allied bombing; you breathe it in the air that thickens as you drive east on narrow potholed highways beside weedchoked fields; you taste it in the tap water you're warned not to drink.

The cost of undoing 40 years of communism is enormous, in both human and financial terms. About 1.1 million Germans in the new eastern states (12.1 percent of the workforce) are now unemployed; in 1990 and 1991 combined, the eastern German economy contracted by more than a third. Transfer payments from west to east amounted to $82 billion (U.S.) in 1991, with the same expected in 1992. And that is only the beginning. It will take decades and billions of Deutschmarks to restore the health of the people and land in the Black Triangle, which stretches east from Dresden into Poland and the cesspool of eastern Europe, Romania. In the meantime, shutting down the worst polluters, the chemical plants, will throw thousands more out of work.

The task is also all-engrossing. The officials our group met — and we were briefed with impressive thoroughness by representatives of both the Foreign Office and the Ministry for Economics, including the Common Market division — were totally preoccupied with managing unification. But beyond the economic and logistic issues, there is now another issue being discussed by Germans at every level: national identity.

To a Canadian, this has, at first, a familiar ring. Canadians are often unsure of what Canadian identity is, and somewhat shy about expressing pride in whatever we define it to be. But for Germans, defining national identity is far more difficult. Even the third generation, those whose *parents* were born after World War II, know all too well what it meant to be German, and, until recently, have taken little pride in it.

In fact, as the head of the department of national monuments of the Senate Chancellery of Berlin, Dr. Ekkehard Klausa, pointed out to us, Berlin and Germany are full of monuments to a victory not *of* the Germans, but *over* them. Germans themselves, he noted, are building monuments and memorial centres to commemorate the greatest defeat of their own civilization, namely the Holocaust.

Until unification, the preoccupation of Germany, both West and East, was dealing with the dreadful legacy of the Third Reich. In the east, members of the Communist hierarchy glorified themselves as valiant fighters, and ultimately victors, against the Nazis. But in the west, unlike Austria, the Federal Republic set out to make sure that at least on the institutional level, its people faced their history and, to whatever extent they could, atoned for it.

A staunch supporter of Israel and its most important European ally, West Germany in 1952 allocated $1 billion (U.S.) to pay reparations to survivors and to the Jewish state, even as it was rebuilding its own shattered country. Education efforts have been, and remain, intensive. Night after night, I couldn't turn on the hotel radio or television without finding a program on the Holocaust. Dachau, the first of the concentration camps, is both a memorial and an unforgettable educational centre. And the tiny Jewish community in Germany (approximately 40,000 out of a total of 80 million) has a political presence that reflects, not its present size, but the size of the community that was destroyed. Israeli envoy Benjamin Navon, himself a survivor, told us: "The ability of the Israeli ambassador to function here is enhanced by the presence of six million other ambassadors."

With unification, the preoccupations of government and people alike are shifting from the past to the present. At last, the ugly division of Wall and barbed wire and watchtowers that once seemed to be a permanent punishment for Germany's conduct during the Third Reich is gone — and, with a perfect twist of historical irony, just in time to bring all, not part, of the country into the new European political union.

Europe has been the other great preoccupation of postwar western Germany. For years, West Germans defined a good German as a good European, a supra- rather than an ultra-nationalist. By pouring its energies into Europe, West Germany achieved not only economic prosperity, but a leading and respected role in a model international community.

But now, Germany has its own intrinsic source of pride. It is whole again — ein Volk — one people; Germans are recreating their national identity, and discovering the perils of nationalism. For the first time, more than one young German pointed out to us, German flags are appearing on bumper stickers and waving from hikers' backpacks. This is the benign face — the healthy face — of nationalism. But there are other youngsters, with shaved heads and neo-Nazi placards, attacking foreigners in hostels. The issue of xenophobia — attacks on non-Germans, usually visible minorities, that were taking place almost daily while our group visited — has become the issue on which Germany's present is being judged, by Germans themselves as well as by others, through the lens of Germany's past.

In Ekkehard Klausa's words: [Our] national and historical identity we do not, as do other nations, find bestowed upon us as an unquestioned heritage. Rather, we have to achieve it afresh in an often painful struggle of historical conscience.

(Patricia Rucker was one of a group of eight editors of North American Jewish newspapers who visited Germany in October at the invitation of the German government.)

Memorial crosses near the Reichstag, where part of the Berlin Wall once stood, carry the names and dates of death of those killed trying to cross the wall into West Berlin. The fourth cross from the right carries the dates for 12 "Unknowns."

Editorial/Letters

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Human kindness

There is an old saying that poverty and unemployment outweigh all other troubles. As the second year of the millenium's last decade draws to its close, we are experiencing with increasing force the cruel truth of that maxim.

Last month, Canada's economy lost approximately 50,000 jobs, most in the manufacturing sector. Unfortunately, the losses are mounting, with no abatement in sight. No region in the country, no sector in the economy and no business size is being spared.

Several retail clothing chains recently announced they were closing their doors. Governments have announced they are cutting back their budgets. Even the giant multi-nationals such as Canadian Pacific, Xerox, IBM, and Alcan have announced large-scale employee reductions. Yet, perhaps the most chilling announcement of all, crystallizing for us the extent of our economic predicament by sheer magnitude of numbers, was the news last week that thousands of workers at the GM plant in Oshawa may lose their jobs too.

Shutdowns, layoffs, bankruptcies, dismissals, closings, liquidations, forced early retirements, workforce rationalization, plant downsizing and recession have become the commonplace vocabulary of our suffering economy. But this vocabulary, like all jargonized vocabularies, is clinical, sanitized, incapable of conveying the total measure of our plight, namely, its deeply personal, human dimension.

Unemployment inflicts many wounds. But the deepest is the one which strikes at the individual's self-esteem, feelings of worth and dignity. For this is the cut which can eviscerate an entire family's sense of purpose and hope. The Torah understands this. "If your brother becomes poor, and his means fail, strengthen and uphold him." *(Lev. 25:35)*

In these dark and difficult days, therefore, it is incumbent upon us as a society, as managers and as employers, to prevent hard times where possible, and as individuals, as co-workers and as friends, to strengthen and uphold the unfortunate many who fall onto those hard times.

This means, for example, as *The Financial Post* pointed out in its Dec. 13 editorial, "that employers need to show imagination and initiative when it comes to reducing jobs. More employers should avail themselves of alternatives."

It means ensuring that adequate social services and humanitarian resources exist in the community. And it also means placing those services and those resource at the disposal of every person who has need of them.

Being without work is not being without worth. To be with diminished prospects must not mean to be with diminished hope. In our places of work, our places of commerce, in our meeting halls, our streets, our playgrounds and our homes, confer a kindness; say a good word; care.

It is more than a matter of morality and conscience. It is, simply, decency.

Message of hope

The Talmud accords a special recognition to the individual who transforms an enemy into a friend.

Cantor Michael Weisser of Lincoln, Neb. stands in this noble tradition on account of his recent encounter with Larry Trapp of the same city.

The *Associated Press* reports that Trapp, who was recently convicted of trespass for leaving a hate message on a former neighbor's answering machine, was an ardent Nazi and Ku Klux Klan member.

He has spent the last three years circulating messages of white supremacy and hatred through the mails and the telephone. One of the people to whom he sent the mailings was Cantor Weisser, who joined Congregation B'nai Jeshurun in September.

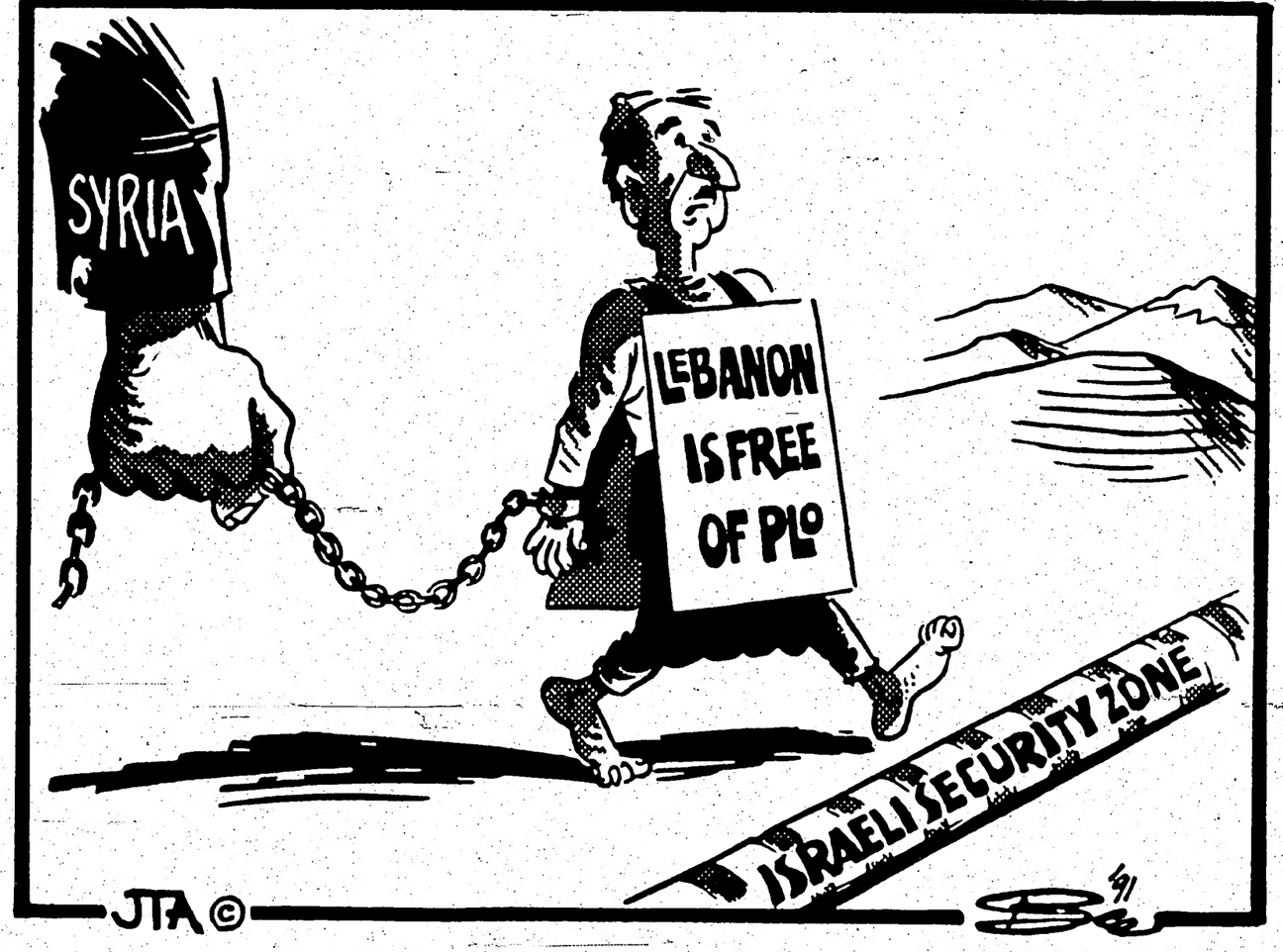
Weisser and his wife Julie were so frightened by the messages contained in the mail and on their answering machine that they feared for the safety of their three teenage children.

Believing that an attack is sometimes the best defence, the Weissers decided to leave some messages of their own on Trapp's answering machine. Those messages led to an encounter between the cantor and his antagonist and the latter's hatred soon gave way to contrition and reconciliation.

"They showed me so much love that I couldn't help but love them back," said Trapp, who is clinically blind and a double amputee. He has also broken off his ties with both the Nazis and the Klan.

Cantor and Mrs. Weisser embody the Jewish doctrine that one must hate the sin but not the sinner, however difficult a challenge this may pose.

By looking upon Larry Trapp as a human being enmeshed in a hateful pathology, they were able to concentrate on his humanity and help him to divest himself of his hate.



Letters to the Editor

Letters are welcome if they are brief, in English or French, typewritten with lines double spaced, and of interest to our reading public. Readers are cautioned not to make sweeping claims against persons or institutions which they cannot verify, as libel laws are very stringent. We reserve the right to edit and condense letters, which must bear the sender's address, phone number and both handwritten and typed signatures.

REBUKE TO RASKY

I was shocked and thoroughly disgusted with Frank Rasky's coverage of the Jewish Artists' Scholarship Society (JASS), *CJN*, Dec. 5. Batsheva and Gloria Valentine are accomplished artists, and should not be described by a male columnist as being the "gorgeous-looking," "talented Jewish beauties" and "sassy entertainers" whom he cannot resist.

Using the physical appearance of two female members of JASS to promote the society and its fundraising party not only misrepresents their organization, but is also extremely offensive to the two women concerned. Rasky's language is blatantly sexist and degrading — he reduces the singers to a "pair of enchantresses," a "raven-haired charmer" and a "honey-haired siren" out on a "conquest."

Such allusions tap into the misogynist mythology abounding in literature and the traditional male representation of women. The femme-fatale image is not complimentary for women; on the contrary, it is erroneous, dangerous and detrimental. Sirens concretize male fear of women as seductive temptresses, luring and destroying men. In the Greek myth, Ulysses tied himself to the mast of his ship and made his sailors put wax in their ears so as not to be lured to their death by the beauty of the sirens' song.

The siren metaphor that Rasky uses to describe Batsheva is horribly insulting, especially since her singing and song writing are infused with her feminist consciousness.

Doesn't *The CJN* have a policy regarding the publiction of sexist material? I hope you will give serious consideration to this matter. Batsheva, Gloria and the other members of JASS deserve an apology, as well as better representation in the future.

Edna Sandler
Toronto

* * *

WHERE ARE THE CHILDREN?

Your touching editorial referring to the loss of 1,500,000 Jewish children during the Holocaust was very meaningful to me. I am a family physician practising in Downsview, Ont., a suburb of Toronto. Several hundred of my patients are Holocaust survivors and their families.

These people eventually talk freely with me about their experiences, often telling me more than they will tell their own children. They yearn for younger brothers and sisters lost — at times taken away after months in their protection. I see sole survivors of families of many children.

Those who were married before the war in some cases had children torn from them. Remarriage and new children cannot eliminate these memories.

Surprisingly, most survivors were able to function and raise families after the madness. Most, but not all, of course. The children of survivors have unique problems, but at least they could be born, they could live.

Of these hundreds of survivor patients, just a few were under age 12 in 1939. They survived because their desperate parents somehow convinced their torturers that they were older, and fit to receive food.

I was astounded one day to speak to a Jewish woman who was born in Europe in 1941. She explained that her parents kept their family alive by doing the equivalent of winning a lottery. They had against all odds guessed correctly on several occasions, staying one or two steps ahead of the Germans for a few years, being accepted in various countries just prior to invasion. This could not happen very often.

David Rapoport, M.D.
Toronto

* * *

SUPPORT FOR SLAVENS

Re: Paul Lungen's article of Nov. 28, CJC's Slavens Comes Under Fire. I would like to congratulate Mr. Slavens for his stand and for his courage. Too many organizations perpetuate themselves forever even if their original mandate was already accomplished.

The Soviet Jewry movement did a marvelous job in working on behalf of securing freedom for Soviet Jews. The major task is now to see that as many Jews as possible leave what is left from the Soviet Union and subsequently ensure that when they arrive in Israel they have proper housing and good jobs.

In scarce economic times this should be the major priority and not playing organizational favoritism in order to perpetuate the egos of some individuals who can't accept the idea that times have changed.

We need more leaders like Mr. Slavens.

D. Kerbal
Toronto

* * *

FROM VIP TO STUDENT

Less than six months ago I sat in a tailored business suit, on the 22nd floor of a downtown Toronto office tower, as vice-president of a prominent investment bank. Today I sit in T-shirt and shorts on the 2nd floor dormitories of the WUJS Insititute (World Union of Jewish Students), stripped of all titles and tackle my daily quota of Hebrew homework.

How did this personal transformation come about? If I attempt to assess the factors which influenced my decision to give up my career and embark on a journey of evaluating my Jewishness, I realize that they revolve around two key words: donation and commitment.

The arduous challenge of evaluating my Jewish identity was part of a long personal process. The dilemma plagued me for years and eventually overpowered me, forcing me to try and answer the key question facing Diaspora Jewry today: Is it enough for us to make our monetary donations to the UJA, or to buy our Israel Bonds, or should one's commitment not extend at least to the next level i.e. a donation of one's time and energy to the people of Israel (the spectrum of this donation could extend from volunteering in Jewish organizations in the Diaspora to spending time in Israel on a one year Sabbatical, or to the ultimate commitment of making aliyah).

If we as Diaspora Jews can share only a small slice of the burden which Israelis bear, we are fulfilling our responsibility as Jews. We need to add to our monetary donations by making a personal contribution, and what better way than through the Volunteers for Israel Program. While this may only be a small token donation on our part, relative to the total commitment of our Israeli brothers and sisters, the personal reward is immense. If every Diaspora Jew could in some way experience the harsh reality that every Jewish Israeli experiences in the army, perhaps they too will come away with a sense of greater understanding, respect and appreciation for Israel.

Bernice Miedzinski
Tel Aviv

'Traditional friends' demean Jewish state

By
J. B. SALSBERG

Yes, my dear friends, we do, indeed, live in historically exciting times. Empires crumble; states disappear; new global empires make their appearance and new states stand in line for their opportunity to enter the hemispheric merry-go-round.

In such an awesome time, many innocent nation-lambs shiver with fear of what lies ahead of them.

Israel, the Jewish state, which enjoyed some special considerations, until recently, now often finds itself out in the cold. Worse is the bitter fact that some of Israel's "traditional friends" now go out of their way to humble, demean and humiliate the Jewish state. . .

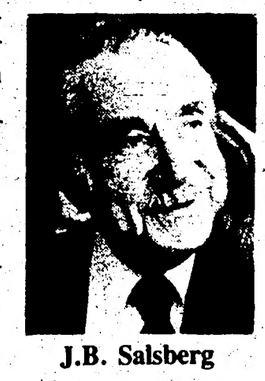
Yes, this is now happening before the eyes of the whole world.

In its grossest and cruelest form, it was recently displayed by the U.S. secretary of state, Mr. James Baker, before the watchful eyes and ears of the world press.

Let's first take a glance at the background of that humiliating act of James Baker.

At the recent Madrid Conference for Peace in the Middle East, the U.S. secretary of state assumed the role of final arbiter in the process of negotiations between Israel and the Arab states.

Israel wanted the negotiations to be held in the Middle East for obvious good reasons. The United States, on the other hand, wanted them held in Washington.



J.B. Salsberg

It was while the prime minister of Israel, Yitzhak Shamir, was in Washington that Baker announced the date and place of the Middle East peace negotiations. When Baker made that announcement, the Israeli head of government was in Washington, indeed he was in the White House, but he was neither aware nor was he consulted before the announcement was made. . .

According to the usually reliable Yiddish journalist, Mr. Abraham Wilk, of the New York Yiddish weekly, the *Forverts*, when the pre-conference discussions were taking place in Washington for a mutually agreed date for the peace conference, Baker lost his patience and said to the Israeli prime minister: "Here is the telephone number of the State Department and when you will have something new to say, ring us."

Well, I'm not a follower of Shamir, the present head of Israel's government; indeed I would have preferred Shimon Peres, head of the Israeli Labor Party, as prime minister at this crucial period of Israel's history. But Israel's democratic process gave that responsibility to Shamir's party and I, therefore, consider the present U.S. policy towards Israel as demeaning to the Jewish state and, therefore, unacceptable.

Why do I lately reveal my profound unhappiness with Washington's policy in the Middle East? Because it is based only on the political, economic and big-power interests of the United States and not on the best interests of the millions of people, Jews and Arabs, in that historical region of the world. I resent James Baker's arrogance when dealing with Israel or other states in that part of the world.

I confess, that I sometimes regret the absence of another great power in the Middle East. Now it is the United States that is the *only* world power left.

Empires crumble all around us. The U.S.S.R. gone! Do you realize what it means that the U.S.S.R. has crumbled and Russia, yes Russia, re-emerges as the big power of Eastern Europe?

Except that "Mother Russia" is hungry and in need of bread. . .

Living in such socio-political explosive times, Jews could be enticed to endorse the Lubavitch campaign for the coming of Messiah. And it becomes less difficult to understand why Lubavitch has added the dynamic word **"now"** to their soulful outcry: "We want Messiah now!"

And, if I were a Lubavitcher, I would suggest that our outcry be magnified a thousand times louder by our modern electronic devises. But, alas, I'm only a part-time and uninvolved appreciator of Lubavitch. . .

Finally, we live in a unique period of history. Empires crumble. Great Britain, that once ruled the greater part of the world, is now only a benevolent retiree in its island home, looking at the strife-torn world and going hunting with its well-bred hounds. . .

But, thank heaven that we, among the oldest of people, now build a new community on our ancient birthplace that is now known as part of the Middle East.

Ah, when I was born, the world was full of promise, but that promise is only partially fulfilled.

But, let's not despair. The world will, hopefully, somehow muddle through.

Cheer up, my dear readers!

Join me in my effort to be cheerful. . .

Russian anti-Semitism deeply entrenched

By
RABBI W. GUNTHER PLAUT

I have had considerable comment on my recent article on Russian anti-Semitism, and I hope that adjudicators in the Immigration and Refugee Board will revise their previous policy. As you may remember, the board had refused refugee status to a Jew who had arrived in Canada from Soviet Russia and had claimed persecution in his home land. The board had rejected the claim, holding that whatever anti-Semitism existed or exists in Soviet Russia has abated and presents no threat to the security of the claimant.

This ill-considered opinion has further been given the lie of a new publication of the Centre for Refugee Studies at York University. The journal is called *Soviet Refugee Monitor* and is carefully researched by the Documentation Project on Anti-Semitism, a sub-division of the centre. Volume I No. 1 has just appeared.

Here are some random quotations from an article, entitled Anti-Semitic Organizations and Their Mass-Media.

Rabbi Plaut

Author Alexander Benifand commends Russian president Boris Yeltsin on promising to build more synagogues but, says he, "even if Yeltsin (or Gorbachev) issued decrees prohiting the spread of anti-Semitism tomorrow, would it disappear? Anti-Semitism in Russia is centuries old. It is by no means the outcome of Soviet rule, as some Western analysts naively suggest. Therefore, it is difficult to believe that state anti-racist laws could eradicate it quickly. As long as the economic crisis persists, Jews will be blamed for it. A recent survey of 4,200 Russians found that more than half of them would like all Jews to leave the country."

Anti-Semitic organizations issue publications which reach a huge market. A special "committee of the Soviet public against the establishing of diplomatic ties with Israel" was organized to arouse the populace by feeding them anti-Semitic propaganda. It warned that "the safety of Soviet Embassy workers could not be guaranteed in Israel . . . Tel Aviv violates all accepted international norms and Soviet diplomats could not be guaranteed immunity. At any time when Zionists disapprove of any Soviet internal or external policies, Soviet citizens could be used as hostages or victims of terrorist acts by Zionist organizations. . ."

But does the wide-spread existence of anti-Semitism also mean that Jews are in actual danger? Robert J. Brym, professor of sociology and associate of the Centre for Russian and East European Studies at the University of Toronto, writes:

"I concluded that extremist Russian nationalism represents a serious threat to . . . Soviet Jews — a threat that is, moreover, double edged. In Moscow today, people's opinions are in a state of flux and are greatly affected by their material conditions. In a *Spiegel* poll (conducted by the well-known German magazine) respondents were asked to react to the statement: Perestroika will no longer be supported by the population if the supply of goods does not improve. The result: 76 percent agreed, 17 percent disagreed, and 7 percent gave no answer.

What this means is that perestroika, the Russian term for openness and democratic institutions and an abandonment of Stalinist repression, would give way to old line tyranny if the economy does not improve. The unfortunate possibility exists that not only could this happen, but in that event, Jews would be the first victims.

No wonder they leave the country in record numbers.

(Readers who are interested in subscribing to the *Monitor*, should contact York Lanes Press, 351 York Lanes, York University, 4700 Keele Street, North York, Ontario M3J 1P3: telephone (416) 736-5843; fax (416) 736-5837).

Women should not have to fear men

By
ELAINE KAHN

One night this week, needing to retrieve my daughter Rachel from a folk dance performanee, I pulled into an underground parking lot — and realized I was petrified.

I almost drove right back out. I scurried to the elevator, constantly looking over my shoulder for my phantom attacker. I pushed the wrong elevator button, which opened on the dark, empty, after-hours corridor of an office complex.

Walking back to the car with my daughter, I told her I'd done something she must never do, no matter what belt she's got in karate by the time she can drive.

Such a mixed message. She knows I often go places alone without thinking twice. Yet she knows I've never expressed fear in an underground parking lot when her father is with me. I never feel unsafe anywhere he is.

But, in our brave, liberated, progressive, new world (remember it?), it's not supposed to be that way. Do honesty and reality truly demand I teach my kids that they'll feel safe in life only when they have a man beside them? Is the chill I feel my growing hatred of winter or my growing fear for elderly widowed, female friends and relatives?

For the remainder of the week, I have been moody, preoccupied and confused. It's been building from a whole recent series of things: countless media stories on violence against women, to mark the Montreal massacre (stories which themselves have been mixed in their analysis of real, as opposed to perceived, current dangers); stories in the media, and from people I know, of sexual harassment and abuse; a growing murder rate (of both sexes) here in the Toronto area; a disc jockey on my favorite station making a crude joke about the woman in the William Kennedy Smith rape trial . . .

Elaine Kahn

Plus there's a poll showing that almost half of Canadians still think, to varying degrees, that a woman who has been sexually harassed was, because of her appearance or behavior, asking for it.

There is simply no excuse for such a noxious opinion — and, on my stupidity meter, it registers right up there with the NHL coach (in the story about the AIDS-infected woman who had intercourse with over four dozen NHL players) who said most players are afraid to buy condoms because they're "public figures." And Teflon-coated, perhaps?

Aside from teaching my children to give respect to, and demand it from, all others (until something an individual does makes it impossible to respect her or him), I'm losing my grip on what to teach them about boundaries — and fear.

I don't want them to believe all men are bad or to go through life scared. Especially when I myself would like to go back some years to the point where I didn't know how much there was to fear and, even when I suspected, didn't let it get to me. I can't tell whether I'm now realistically fearful or have simply lost my nerve — in which case I'd like it back, because it was more fun back then.

Certainly it's a good-thing if, by "sensitizing" people and through legislation, we can eliminate experiences that are brutal or merely bad. The head of my high school history department, for example, was well-known among the students as a man who didn't like female students and consistently gave them lower marks. He'd been teaching for ages — obviously, parents then, unlike now, were willing to pass it off as a typical teacher eccentricity.

The female students would never have thought of organizing against him — we just prayed fervently each year that he would not be our teacher. I'm glad there are, increasingly, ways to ensure my daughters will have no similar experience in school or workplace.

What I have some mixed feelings about is going too far in either legislation or with less formal boundaries. I have a growing collection of anecdotes from male friends, genuinely sensitive to (and often active in combatting) sexism, sexual abuse and violence, who then get dumped on by some women, just because they are men.

Their very involvement makes them closer targets than men who are still living in another era, and that's not fair. What good has it been for many women to have preached that men need to be more senstitive and openly emotional, if some of us then harass the minority of men who listened?

(This issue resonates deeply in me — after years of hearing I'm not an openly emotional person, and definitely not a kissy-huggy one, I've learned to be a little more physically demonstrative. It was a big step forward — but now I'm back to hesitating, because it might be taken wrong.)

There's a big difference between an unsolicited pat on the shoulder from a man being supportive or from a man hoping to pat further and we used to have something called common sense that told us that. I was raised on the slogan of "consider the source" — although I've ditched some of the principles I grew up with, I'm not happy to see this one go.

Because "considering the source" takes any issue from the collective to the personal, I think that, while we need collective laws and guidelines, we all suffer when we wipe out the personal, tarring and feathering all members of a group in any particular way. As a woman, I benefit from much of the new thinking, even with its often blurry definitions and occasional fanaticism. As a Jew, I know its dangers.

I went out alone again tonight. I used the valet parking instead of the underground lot. It was the worst snowstorm of the winter so far but I didn't let that stop me.

It was silly, and again I told my kids not to do in future what I did tonight. But I had to do it. I had to do one thing this week to prove myself, however foolishly and even if the enemy was natural not human, that I'm not completely cowed.

Features

Intifada both a success and a failure

By
SHELDON KIRSHNER

Four years ago this month, the Palestinians in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip launched what has come to be universally known as the intifada.

Since then, the Arabic word "intifada" has crept into the standard usage of other languages, including Hebrew and English, and become synonymous with the effort by the Palestinians to "shake off" Israeli military rule in the territories.

Breaking out as a spontaneous eruption of Palestinian rage and frustration, the intifada has been both a failure and a success for the 1.7 million Palestinians in the territories.

The rebellion, which has waned of late, has clearly failed to dim the Israeli government's resolve to keep the territories. Despite the death of 75 Israeli soldiers and civilians since December 1987, Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir's desire to retain Judea and Samaria, if not Gaza, remains as unshakeable as ever.

Ideologically committed to the territories, Shamir and his ministers continue to insist that there will be no withdrawals, even for the sake of reaching a peace agreement with the Arabs. At the same time, the government is "creating facts" on the ground by stepping up the pace of settlement activity beyond, and directly along, the old Green Line.

It's doubtful whether the United Leadership of the Intifada — the clandestine group which directs the revolt in co-ordination with the PLO — really expected to expel the Israeli army from the territories. After all, the Palestinians are no match for the Israelis. But the Palestinians had hoped that the intifada would inspire a sense of fatigue in Israeli society.

Although most Israelis are fed up with the intifada and wish it would fade away, they believe that the final status of the territories should be settled at peace talks, not by Palestinian stone-throwers.

The truth is that the intifada has weighed more heavily on the Palestinians than the Israelis.

The economies of the West Bank and Gaza have taken a terrible beating in the past four years, as unemployment levels have risen dramatically. Times were especially tough during the Gulf crisis, when remittances from Palestinians abroad practically ground to a halt, donations from benefactors such as Saudi Arabia and Kuwait dried up and the Israelis imposed a long curfew on the local population, preventing Palestinian day laborers from entering Israel.

The Palestinians, too, have learned that they are basically on their own in this struggle, and that Arab solidarity is an empty shell. No Arab country has gone, nor will go, to their aid. True, Arab leaders have harshly condemned Israel's occupation and its methods of repressing the intifada, but they have done nothing more than that. Once again, the Palestinians know, in their heart of hearts, that they can rely on no one but themselves.

In Western countries, Israel's image has been badly tarnished by its handling of the intifada. Amnesty International, for example, has accused Israel of practising routine torture on jailed Palestinians. Nevertheless, the Palestinians now realize that European or American pressure on Israel can go only so far. Besides, the Palestinians themselves suffered a severe public relations setback because of the PLO's support of Iraq in the Gulf crisis.

Palestinian workers in Gaza board a truck bound for Israel. [IPPA photo]

As well, the upsurge of Arab-on-Arab violence has triggered gnawing disquiet within the Palestinian community. Israeli soldiers have killed about 870 Palestinians, while Palestinian maurauders have murdered 465 Palestinians as collaborators. (In fact, some of the Palestinians have been gunned down, knifed or axed to death in personal vendettas, while others have met their death as common criminals. Prostitutes and drug dealers are especially prone to retribution.)

Palestinian intellectuals — and PLO chairman Yasser Arafat — have called for an end to internal Arab violence, warning that Palestinians are "devouring themselves." But the appeals have fallen mainly on deaf ears. Palestinian critics are particularly concerned that the intifada has already coarsened and demeaned Palestinian society (just as some Israelis believe that the occupation has had a negative impact on their country.)

Nevertheless, the intifada has been of some benefit to the Palestinians.

- It has given them a new sense that they can take matters into their own hands.
- It has emboldened them to work toward self-rule: since December 1987, the Palestinians have withdrawn into themselves and laid the foundation for a relatively independent economy.
- It has encouraged them to draw away, if only slightly, from the PLO. As a result, they have fashioned an indigenous Palestinian leadership that is considerably more realistic and pragmatic than the PLO.

The West Bank-Gaza leadership, which has represented the Palestinians at peace conferences in Madrid and Washington, has called for "fresh thinking in restructuring the shape and infrastructure of the intifada;" has urged the Palestinians "to rebuild" the intifada on "an economic and educational basis;" has acknowledged that "40 years of violence got us no where;" and has implied that Israeli goodwill gestures may bring about a reduction of Palestinian violence.

Israel, sensing this mood, has shifted gears. It has provided Palestinian businessmen with economic incentives. It has allowed local elections in Gaza and Hebron. On the recommendation of the army, it has adopted a new policing policy, designed to minimize contact with the Arab population so as not to antagonize the Palestinians needlessly.

Israel's policy coincides with a general decline in Palestinian violence in the past year or so.

Stone-throwing incidents are sharply down, although stabbings and the use of firearms by Palestinians have ominously increased. Mass demonstrations have passed into history, and more important, life is gradually returning to normal, as schools and universities reopen and as the majority of Palestinian workers go back to their jobs in Israel.

Yet full normalcy still eludes the territories. As the intifada enters its fifth year, dangerous rifts have opened up between Palestinian moderates — who support the peace process and "transitional arrangements" in lieu of immediate statehood — and radicals who vehemently deny Israel's existence and oppose peace talks.

Mideast Analysis

By
SHELDON KIRSHNER

In less than two months, a moment of truth will dawn in Israel's currently-strained relationship with its patron and benefactor, the United States. President George Bush, who in September had demanded — and obtained — a 120-day delay in Congressional debate on $10 billion worth of loan guarantees to Israel, will have to decide where he stands on the issue.

The funds Israel has requested are for the resettlement of the wave of Soviet immigrants who've poured into the Jewish state since 1989. Bush wants to help, for he has consistently backed the right of Soviet Jews to immigrate to Israel.

Bush, however, fears that the loan guarantees will have the effect of freeing up Israeli funds normally allocated to the construction of new settlements and the expansion of existing ones in the territories. And since the Bush administration concurs with the Arab view that the settlement program is fundamentally inimical to the peace process, which the United States has been promoting and nurturing, the U.S. president has linked the fate of the loan guarantees with Israeli settlements. In short, the United States wants Israel to freeze settlement activity, so that the matter in its entirety can be thrashed out in Arab-Israeli negotiations.

Shamir not only rejects this link; he claims that Bush's "sharp and tough" position strikes at "the deepest foundations of Jewish and Zionist existence." Shamir, though, acknowleges that Bush has worked in the past to win emigration rights for Soviet — and Ethiopian — Jews.

It is a dispute that has been brewing for years, given the Likud government's fervent ideological commitment to settling, and retaining, the territories and Washington's acceptance of the land-for-peace formula, as enshrined in United Nations Resolution 242. The peace process launched in Madrid on Oct. 30 has exacerbated this basic disagreement, fraying Israel's strategic relations with the United States.

Sour atmosphere pervades relationship

Despite the seriousness of the problem, there are no tangible signs on the horizon that Shamir intends to modify or change his policy. His position is that settlements enhance the peace process, forcing the Arabs to the negotiating table. But more important, Shamir is "creating facts" on the ground. When the Madrid conference ended, Israel inaugurated a new settlement on the Golan Heights. On the eve of the second round in Washington, Israel took steps toward building another settlement on the West Bank.

Shamir's refusal to send a delegation to the opening session of the Washington talks on Dec. 4, which the Arabs attended, worsened Israel's image in the United States.

Shamir was furious that Washington cavalierly announced the new date for talks without consulting Israel, even as he was poised to meet Bush to discuss that very matter. Roni Milo, the Israeli police minister who is close to Shamir, described the United States' behavior as "an impudent ultimatum."

The latest row is symptomatic of the sour atmosphere that has pervaded Israel's mercurial relationship with the United States of late.

The tension stems mainly from U.S. irritation with Israel's reluctance to relinquish territory for peace and its determination to change the status quo in the territories. But there is a second factor at work here — Bush is not as viscerally pro-Israel as his predecessor, Ronald Reagan, even though he recently assured American Jewish leaders that his support of Israel is "rock solid." (Israel still tops the list of U.S. foreign aid recipients.)

Israel's ties with the United States have also been affected by the end of the Cold War, the collapse of communism in Eastern Europe and the gradual dissolution of the Soviet Union.

Since then, Israel's value as a bulwark against Soviet/Communist encroachments in the Middle East has been rendered irrelevant. What's more, the United States is interested in developing closer links with the Arab world, perhaps at Israel's expense. In the "new world order" envisaged by Bush, Israel may be more of a liability than an asset.

Demjanjuk case nears climax

By
ERNIE MEYER

With the approaching Supreme Court appeal hearing in the war crimes case of John Demjanjuk, the defence and prosecution are both banking on new evidence to establish finally the fate of the man sentenced to death as Ivan the Terrible of Treblinka.

Defence Counsel Yoram Sheftel has launched what looks like a campaign publicizing fresh evidence he believes will exonerate his client. He has given a series of interviews in the local and international press and major U.S. television networks.

The prosecution, on the other hand, has found a German list of SS auxiliaries on which the name of Ivan Demjanjuk appears. This almost sensational find may prove a turning point in the appeal against the death penalty.

Sheftel's action appears to be a preliminary to the appeal hearing scheduled by the Supreme Court for Dec. 23. In the past, it had mostly been the defence that asked for postponements, but at the last hearing, on Aug. 14, it was the prosecution that asked for a continuation of four months, to give it time to search for fresh evidence.

Sheftel said that new evidence he will submit will prove that his client is not only a victim of mistaken identity, but that from the beginning of the legal action against him in the United States over 10 years ago he was the victim of a frame-up.

Sheftel bases his claims for his client's innocence on 20 postwar Soviet court files of cases against former Red Army soldiers, who after being taken prisoner by the Germans agreed to serve as SS auxiliaries. As a result of glasnost, these files over the last two years were made available by the KGB.

In many of them, witnesses and the accused themselves make incidental mention of Ivan Marchenko as one of the two operators of the gas chambers at Treblinka. Sheftel wants the justices hearing the appeal to accept this as proof that Ivan Marchenko, and not John Demjanjuk, was Ivan the Terrible.

For its part, the prosecution in the past has countered that Marchenko and Demjanjuk are one and the same person and that Demjanjuk often used the name Marchenko, which is a common Ukrainian family name. In a 1948 application for a U.S. visa, Demjanjuk tellingly gave Marchenko as his mother's maiden name.

Prosecutor Michael Shaked was reluctant to react to the wave of publicity generated by the defence. He indicated, however, that the new documents he recently discovered in German state archives were of overriding importance.

They consist of authenticated photocopies of lists drawn up by the SS of former Russian war prisoners trained at the Trawniki camp and who later served as auxiliary guards. Ivan Demjanjuk is listed, and his serial number, 1393, is the same as that on the Trawniki identity card.

During the original trial, months were spent by the prosecution trying to prove the authenticity of the card, while the defence discounted it as a KGB forgery because it had originated from a Soviet archive. The court eventually accepted its authenticity.

Legal experts point out that under the terms of the original indictment, Demjanjuk can also be prosecuted for crimes at places other than Treblinka — such as Sobibor, where about 250,000 Jews were gassed. *(JPFS)*

Organizations and People

Kol Ami congregation gets 200-year-old Torah scroll

By
RANDI DRUZIN

TORONTO —
A congregation barely four years old, has acquired Torah scrolls written 200 years ago.

At a recent meeting at Leo Baeck Day School, members of Kol Ami congregation introduced the antique Sefer Torah they obtained four months ago from the Memorial Scrolls Trust in England.

"This Torah will enrich each and every one of us spiritually and emotionally," said Jan Landau, who was involved with the effort to acquire it.

Theirs is one of 1,564 scrolls that were salvaged by the Czechoslovakian government after World War II and donated to London's Westminster Synagogue in 1964. The English synagogue established the Memorial Scrolls Trust to restore the damaged Torahs — many of which had been desecrated by the Nazis — and to distribute them to congregations worldwide on a permanent loan basis.

The sefer Torah from Brno, Czechoslovakia arrived almost one year after Landau, her husband, Stephen, and two other families (the Rifkins and the Strausses) reserved it for their congregation by making a donation to the trust.

"Stephen finally brought the Torah home from England . . . in a canvas baseball bag," said Landau. "It took a long time to get here," she said, referring to its restoration and the paperwork involved, "but it was well worth the wait. This Torah is a part of history."

The congregation, which doesn't yet have its own synagogue (services are held regularly at Leo Baeck Day School), invited several guest speakers to its Meet The Torah Night, including John Freund, a Canadian Jew who described his experience as a young boy in pre-World War II Czechoslovakia, and Yakov Cohen, a Toronto-based scribe who described the painstaking process of writing a Torah.

Support key in breast cancer

By
FRANCES KRAFT

TORONTO —
There is a staggering amount of information in print on the subject of breast cancer, yet there are still many unanswered questions.

Two people who have a lot of the answers and are working on discovering more are Dr. Pamela Goodwin, medical oncologist at Mount Sinai Hospital and assistant professor at the University of Toronto's faculty of medicine; and Mary Vachon, a psychotherapist with RN and PhD degrees who specializes in counselling cancer patients. Both spoke at a recent Weizmann Women for Science program on What's New in Breast Cancer.

Breast cancer is the most common cause of cancer death among women in Canada, Goodwin told the group of about 55 women. Its incidence is not increasing in fact, although there is an apparent increase as a result of earlier detection.

Family history is the strongest genetic risk factor, with women who have a first-degree relative (mother, sister or daughter) who developed breast cancer before age 50 in both breasts at the highest risk. "If you have one aunt who developed breast cancer at age 65 or 70, your risk is not altered very much at all," said Goodwin.

Goodwin is currently involved in research to see whether there is a link between breast pain earlier in life and later breast cancer, which is almost never painful. Breast pain, which is a common premenstrual symptom, seems to be modified by diet, said Goodwin. "We're wondering if by modifying breast pain through diet we might also modify breast cancer risk."

The Canadian Cancer Society recommends that women limit the fat in their diet to 30 per cent of calories.

"We don't advocate cutting all the fat from your diet," Goodwin said.

Recommendations for screening by mammography vary, especially for women under 50. "It's clear that mammograms are beneficial after age 50," said Goodwin. For women who had a first-degree relative develop breast cancer premenopausally, Goodwin recommends that they have a mammogram when they're 10 years younger than the age at which their relative got cancer.

Treatment varies depending on such factors as the size of the tumor, the size of the breast and the location of the tumor. In many cases, a lumpectomy followed by radiation treatment is considered as effective as a mastectomy.

There has been a lot of debate about psychosocial factors in cancer risk and cancer survival, said Vachon.

There is a theory that some people may put themselves at greater risk of illness by chronically blocking their needs and feelings, resulting in biological consequences, although Vachon stressed that this is not a blanket statement.

Long-term survival has also been related to coping styles, although the evidence is not consistent. "Assertive, aggressive people do very well," said Vachon. Then again, people who deny [the seriousness of their illness] also live longer. "Denial has received a bad name," Vachon said.

Social support is also important. "We all need at least one person upon whom we can rely," Vachon said.

Shaareh Haim gets first scholar-in-residence

By
CYNTHIA GASNER

TORONTO —
Rabbi Neil Gillman was the guest lecturer at the first scholar-in-residence weekend sponsored by the Shaareh Haim Synagogue of York Region located on Bayview Avenue and Weldrick Road in Richmond Hill.

Rabbi Gillman, author of *Sacred Fragments: Recovering Theology for the Modern Jew*, for which he received The National Jewish Book Award, is a professor of theology at the Jewish Theological Seminary in New York.

The theme of the weekend was, Questions for Modern Jews. The rabbi spoke on Friday night after a community dinner, at the Saturday morning service, and on Sunday morning at the Brotherhood-sponsored breakfast.

Some of the topics discussed by Rabbi Gillman included, What Really Happened at Mount Sinai?, Does God Really Hear Me When I Pray?, and What Happens To Me After I Die?

Rabbi Gillman, the foremost spokesman for Conservative Judaism, was born in Quebec City and graduated from McGill University in Montreal. He was ordained by the Jewish Theological Seminary and received his doctorate in philosophy from Columbia University.

Rabbi Gillman is currently writing a full-length book of the ideology of the Conservative Movement in addition to continuing his research in theology and the anthropology of religion.

"In his lectures, Rabbi Gillman demonstrated his unique talent for engaging Jewish adults in theological exploration that stimulates their curiosity to explore new ideas and untravelled roads," says Helene Rudolph, the executive director of Shaareh Haim Synagogue.

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We have already consulted with many individuals and groups about the roles and responsibilities of Metro Toronto in the arts. Consultation is continuing, and we will need to hear from a wide range of people in our community ... *including you.*

"Metro's Role in Arts and Culture: A Discussion Paper" has been prepared outlining options and various topics under study. For a copy of the paper or the summary, or to obtain more information on how you can participate, contact:

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Organizations and People

Canada to "turn up heat" on Syria: Attewell

By
RON CSILLAG

TORONTO —
Canada will "turn up the heat" on the matter of Syrian Jewry, a Tory member of Parliament promises.

Bill Attewell told a student-organized rally for Syrian Jews last week in Mel Lastman Square that a "large number" of MPs and senators will take part in the newly-formed Canadian Parliamentary Group for Syrian Jewry.

The group was set up earlier this month to lobby for the free emigration of Jews from Syria and for basic rights for the nation's 4,300 Jews.

Its honorary chairman is House of Commons speaker John Fraser.

Attewell said the organization will take the same approach as did the Canadian Parliamentary Group for Soviet Jewry, of which he's still chairman.

But Attewell noted that the 300 or so MPs and senators who lobbied for Soviet Jews "have worked ourselves out of a job" now that free emigration from the Soviet Union is allowed.

To cheers, Attewell predicted the same freedom one day in Syria.

He called restrictions against Syrian Jews "vile and wrong."

Liberal MP Jim Peterson said, "We're here to say to Syria: 'What you're doing is wrong and you'll pay for it.' "

North York alderman Irv Chapley and Metro Tory MP Barbara Greene also sounded words of support.

All the MPs praised Judy Feld Carr, chairman of the National Task Force for Syrian Jews.

Carr told the rally that Syrian president Hafez Assad recently forced the Jewish communities of Damascus and Aleppo to march through the streets with banners, in Hebrew, proclaiming their support for Assad's re-election.

Ironically, Jews are prohibited from voting in Syria, she added.

Carr called on Prime Minister Brian Mulroney to intervene on behalf of the Jewish brothers Eli and Selim Swed, who are serving a 6½-year prison term in Damascus on undisclosed charges.

The Sweds are Syria's last two Jewish prisoners. Late last month, four Jewish men were released from jail for no stated reasons.

Frank Dimant, executive vice-president of B'nai Brith Canada, said Syrian Jews are the victims of state-sponsored oppression and harassment. They are denied key jobs, arrested arbitrarily and constantly monitored by a special section of the feared secret police, he said.

Dimant said Syria's treatment of its Jews violates every accepted international human rights standard.

The rally was sponsored by members of the Jewish-Russian Community Centre's youth arm with co-operation from the National Conference of Synagogue Youth (NCSY), NAHON, the Jewish Students' Network, Bnei Akiva and B'nai Brith.

Addressing the recent rally for Syrian Jewry are (from left) Judy Feld Carr, Irv Chapley, Jim Peterson, Frank Dimant, Rabbi Yoseph Zaltzman and Bill Attewell.

* * *

A statement last week by Syrian president Assad that Jews are free to leave his country as long as they do not go to Israel has been greeted with skepticism by Western leaders.

"Everybody in Syria, including Syrian Jews, enjoys the right to leave the country," Assad was quoted as telling a Lebanese parliamentary delegation.

Western agencies working on behalf of Syrian Jewry dismissed the remark but said they would monitor Syria's actions on the matter.

CJC opposing CCLA position

By
PAUL LUNGEN

TORONTO —
Canadian Jewish Congress will oppose an application by the Canadian Civil Liberties Association (CCLA) for intervenor status in a suit calling on the Ontario government to extend public funding to Jewish day schools.

The CCLA's decision to take a position against government funding for Jewish schools "is disappointing and somewhat surprising," said Murray Segal, chairman of OJAEE, the Congress committee that lobbies for the funding.

"This is the single most important local matter before the Jewish community," he said. "One would have expected [the CCLA to support] the rights of minority groups like the Jews."

Five Jewish parents, operating under Congress' auspices, are suing the province, arguing that under the equality section of the Charter of Rights and Freedoms as well as the provision against religious discrimination, Jewish schools should receive the same benefits as do Roman Catholic schools.

Alan Borovoy, general counsel for the CCLA, said the civil rights organization is seeking intervenor status "because of our concern that if Congress' action is successful, it would create dangers to the viability of a public school system."

Borovoy said public schools remain one of "the most integrative institutions in our society," teaching people of different backgrounds how to co-exist and live together.

He said if a court orders the provincial government to fund Jewish schools, other groups would be encouraged to seek similar funding and that could create "a substantial exodus" of students from public schools to provincially-funded private ones.

Congress spokesman Bernie Farber said "that kind of statement is myth-mongering. There's absolutely no proof that the funding of private schools has led to an exodus from public to independent schools. Our figures prove the opposite," he said, noting that where such funding is available, student populations in both systems remain the same.

Lawyer John Laskin, who along with Ed Morgan is representing the parents and Congress, said he will oppose the intervenor application. "This is not the typical kind of civil liberties case they've been involved in," he said, adding it is unclear that the CCLA can bring any special expertise or knowledge that would benefit the court.

Segal said the Ontario Alliance of Christian Schools, which represents about 20,000 students in Protestant schools, is also expected to seek intervenor status — though on the same side as Congress.

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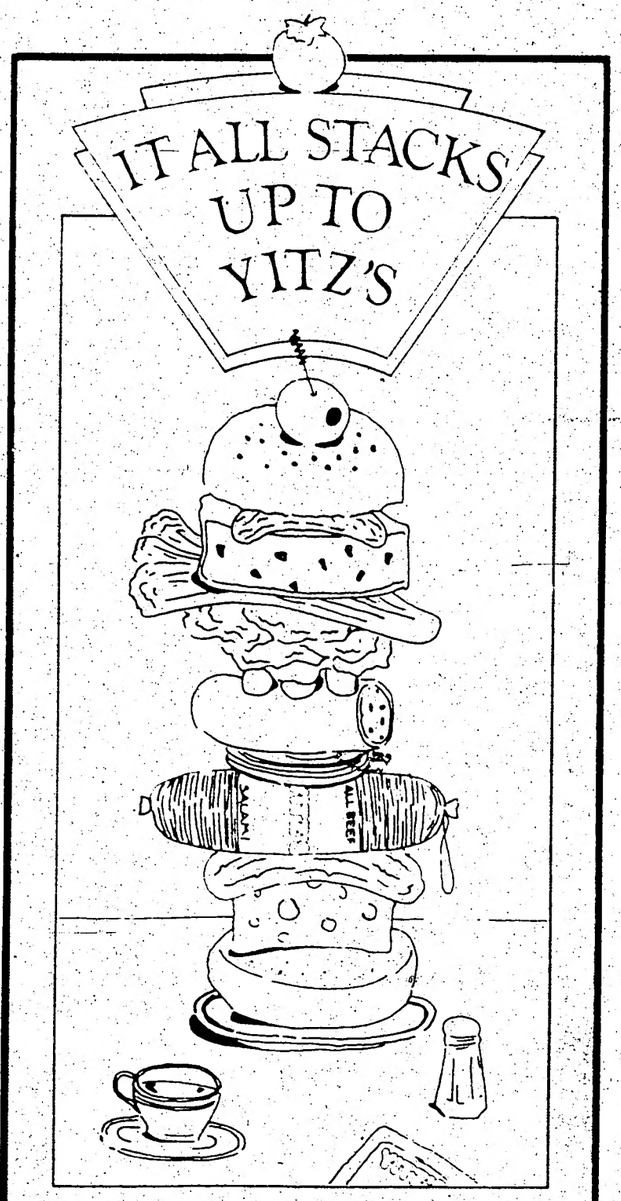

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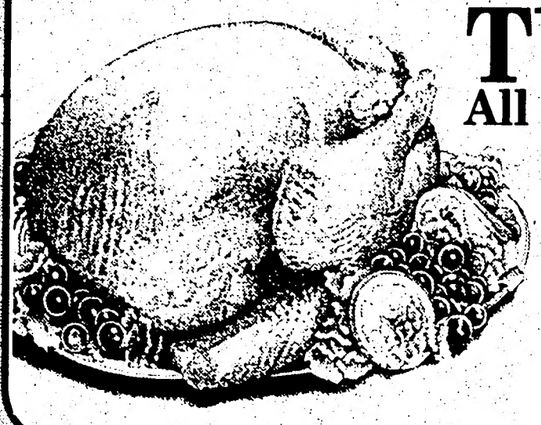

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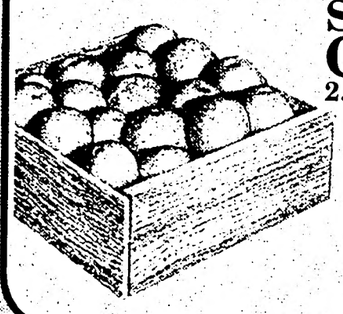

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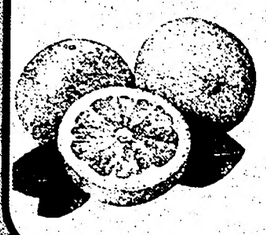

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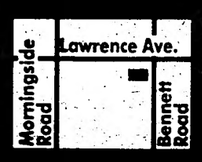

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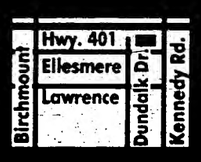

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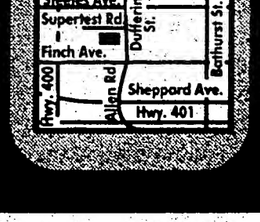

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Organizations and People

At the JNF Negev dinner honoring Harry Gorman (seated second from left) are (seated) Sara Gorman and Frances Mandell. Standing (from left) are Alans Posluns and Allan Silber.

JNF dinner honors Gorman

By
CYNTHIA GASNER

TORONTO —
The Toronto Jewish National Fund's 1991 Negev Dinner, honoring communal leader Harry Gorman, could be described as a testimony to family — to family unity and commitment to Jewish families throughout the world.

Held on the first day of Chanukah at the Grand Ballroom of The Sheraton Centre Hotel, more than 1,100 supporters heard speakers fete Harry and his wife Sara for their devotion to family, loyalty to friends and love of the Jewish people and the State of Israel.

The proceeds from the Gorman Negev Dinner will go to JNF's Eilat-Canada project, a plan to develop the land infrastructure on which will be built 4,000 housing units for new immigrants.

Julia Koschitzky, president of the United Israel Appeal of Canada, saluting Gorman, said, "We have all been touched by his contagious enthusiasm for life and his power of positive thinking." She praised him for his "leadership qualities combined with compassion and genuine modesty — his freedom from vanity and his sweetness of nature."

Dinner chairman Allan Silber expressed his admiration for the work done by the JNF staff and team of volunteers and he welcomed the guests.

Consul Oren David expressed gratitude for the past and present accomplishments of JNF and made a toast to "a bright and promising future" for the State of Israel.

In his invocation, Rabbi Philip Scheim of the Beth David B'nai Israel Beth Am Synagogue, where the Gormans are members, related the miracle of Chanukah and the miracle of Jewish survival.

Three of the Gormans' grandchildren, Casey, Jaclyn and Kimberly, lit the Chanukah candles and led in the singing of *Maoz Tsur*.

Rafi Hochman, the mayor of Eilat, saluted the Toronto Jewish community for preparing the infrastructure for housing for new immigrants and he experssed thanks for "your dedication and devotion for what you are doing for Israel and the Negev."

Alan Posluns, the president of JNF Canada, praised the "marvelous honoree." He announced that "this year's total results are the best ever obtained in the history of Negev Dinners across Canada since the beginning — you have literally done the undoable."

Delivering a warm personal tribute on behalf of the Gorman children and grandchildren, Robert Benia, the honoree's son-in-law said his father-in-law is, "without question, the most deserving person for this very prestigious honor."

Frances Mandell, president of JNF Toronto described Gorman as a "gentle man with enormous devotion to family, community and Israel." She thanked Silber, his campaign team and the community for their support. She announced that on the occasion of JNF's 90th anniversary, a second mega mission to Israel will depart on February 19. The group will visit Eilat and many other JNF projects throughout Israel.

Responding to the accolades, Gorman paid tribute to Ben Prossin, executive director of JNF, the JNF staff, the campaign team and the Gorman family members for their total commitment to the project.

The honoree said, "Judaism in its totality, and not just Jewish fundraising, must become more of a priority in our community." On the Chanukah theme he added, "Let us rededicate ourselves to the light of freedom, the light of Torah, the light of tzedaka (charity) and the light of peace."

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Organizations and People

What's New

By
MIRIAM CHINSKY

DEADLINE REMINDER

With the winter break coming up there are some changes in the deadline schedule. The regular deadline for What's New and About People is Thursday, two weeks prior to publication date. This means that Thursday, Dec. 26 would normally be the deadline for the Jan. 9 issue. (There is no issue on Jan. 2). However, since the office will be closed Wednesday, Dec. 25, Thursday, Dec. 26 and Friday, Dec. 27, deadline for Jan. 9 is Dec. 19.

Thursday, Dec. 19

FILMS AT FOREST HILL LIBRARY

The following three films will be shown at Forest Hill Library, 700 Eglinton Ave. W., starting at 1.30 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 19: *Another Fine Mess, Who's on First*, and *Sadat's Eternal Egypt*.

DAFKA, A JEWISH CAFE

Dafka, a Jewish Cafe, 585 Bloor W. at Markham, presents Shir Hashirim, sung with guitar by **David Lefkowich** and **Rabbi Wechsler,** from 7.30 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 19. Admission is free.

Saturday, Dec. 21

DERSHOWITZ VS. KAHANE

Dershowitz Versus Kahane - Will the real chutzpah please stand up? For a challenging melavah malkah, you can view the provocative Kahane Versus Dershowitz debate on video. Decide for yourself who has the real chutzpah, 8 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 21 at the Anshe Minsk Congregation, 10 St. Andrews St. Refreshments. Cost is $3.

For more information call 969-3266.

Sunday, Dec. 22

JEWISH FILM SOCIETY

The Toronto Jewish Film Society will screen *The Angel Levine*, starring **Zero Mostel** and **Harry Belafonte,** 7.30 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 22 at the Leah Posluns Theatre, 4588 Bathurst St.

The Film Society is still accepting memberships for the 1991/92 season.

Here is the film schedule. Feb. 23, *Funf Letzte Tage* (Five Last Days - Germany 1982) German with English subtitles; April 12, *God, Man and Devil* (USA 1949), Yiddish with English subtitles. Both at the Leah Posluns Theatre. May 17, *The Jazz Singer* (USA 1992), starring **Al Jolson,** plus excerpts from the 1980 remake starring **Neil Diamond.** A critique of the two films will be featured. This is at the Bloor Y branch, 750 Spadina Ave.

To inquire further, call **Barbara Lampcov** at 631-5665.

Monday, Dec. 23

LA LECHE LEAGUE

La Leche League of North Bathurst welcomes you to There's a New Baby in Your Life, the second in a series of four monthly meetings, to take place 8 p.m. Monday, Dec 23 at 42 Patricia Cres., Thornhill. Meetings are open to pregnant or nursing mothers who are interested in information, help and support for breastfeeding. Babies are welcome.

For further information, phone **Ruth,** 736-1758, **Joyce,** 881-8779, **Robin,** 886-8364 or **Karen,** 221-7002.

Tuesday, Dec. 24

Ohr Somayech Jewish Educational Program hosts Sing A Little...Laugh A Little, an evening of English and Yiddish comedy and song featuring the team of **Allen Farkas** and **Michael Lebovic** as well as Nafshenu Singers, **David Kerzner, Yisroel Idels** and **Yehuda Gilden,**, 8 p.m. Tuesday, Dec. 24 at Beth Avraham Yoseph of Toronto, 613 Clark Ave. W. A light dairy dinner will be served.

Tickets are available at the Ohr Somayach office, 613 Clark. Cost is $6 in advance, $10 at the door.

To inquire further, call 886-5730.

AND WHAT ELSE IS NEW...

SPEAK, READ, WRITE HEBREW

Keren Hatarbut Institute of Hebrew Studies, 788 Marlee Ave. is now accepting registration for courses commencing in January. Morning courses are 9.40-11.05, Mondays, from Jan. 27-May 4. Evening courses are 7.30-9, Tuesdays, from Jan. 28-May 5.

The promise is that beginners will speak, read and write Hebrew in 15 sessions.

Free introductory private lessons for beginners and make-up sessions for students who miss lessons are offered.

All courses are under the supervision of **Joseph Klinger,** who introduced the Israeli ulpan method in Toronto. For consultation and registration call him at 781-3571.

UNIQUE OPPORTUNITY

Children at the Richmond Hill campus of United Synagogue Day School (left to right), Mitchell Blum, Jared Puterman, Joanne Gallen and Alissa Steinberg, take advantage of the unique opportunities offered by the school's location. Last spring, under the guidance of caretaker Ivan Malakovski, all of the students planted seeds and seedlings. The senior kindergarten class built the scarecrow and also hatched ducks. In the autumn, youngsters participated in the harvest and have eaten their own produce.

TEMPLE ISRAEL, LONDON

Temple Israel welcomes you to a service 8 p.m. Friday, Dec. 27 in the Jewish Community Centre (Shemot, Exodus 1:1 - 6:1).

JCC SINGERS' TENTH ANNIVERSARY

Mazel tov to JCC Singers, still bringing pleasure to the community after ten very successful years.

If you wish to join the JCC Singers, come to rehearsal on Thursdays from 9.30-11 a.m. in room 221 at the Jewish Community Centre, 4588 Bathurst St. All voices are welcome and the ability to read music is not a prerequisite. To inquire, call president **Dolly Brown,** 636-9468.

JEWISH FAMILY & CHILD SERVICE

Jewish Family and Child Service offers the following workshops beginning in January 1992.

Parenting the Young Child (5-11 years): Begins Jan. 20.

Looking Ahead: a group for separated or divorced people. Begins Jan. 21.

The Sandwich Generation: You and Your Aging Parents. Begins Jan. 22.

The Single Family Challenge: Finding the balance Between Parenthood and Personhood. Begins in January.

For further information concerning fees and registration, call **Pat Lieberman,** 638-7800, ext. 215.

BAYCREST SYNAGOGUE SERVICES

Baycrest Terrace Synagogue, 55 Ameer Ave., holds Shaharit services weekdays at 8.30 a.m. and also Mincha, Maariv (for times call **David** at 256-1600). Everyone is welcome.

For more information, call the above number.

WINTER BREAK DAY CAMP

Winter Break Day Camp at Beth Avraham Yoseph of Toronto Congregation, 613 Clark Ave. W., features davening, arts and crafts, games, sports and learning for youngsters ages 5 and 6 plus grades 1-4. Sessions run from Dec. 23-29 and Dec. 30-Jan.3.

For more details, call 886-3810.

ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS

The To Life Group of Alcoholics Anonymous meets weekly at Kehillat Shaarei Torah, 2640 Bayview Ave. (north of York Mills Road) Meetings are held Wednesdays at 8 p.m. This is the only chapter of Alcoholics Anonymous in Toronto which meets in a synagogue or on the premises of a Jewish organization.

For additional information contact **Rabbi Steven Cohen,** 229-2600.

LODZ GHETTO FILM

A unique video film portraying the story of the Lodz Ghetto, in an effeetive form combinating fiction and documentary, is available from the Societies Division of UJA. Watching this 90-minute film about one of the significant stories related to the Holocaust is a particvularly moving experience. Those interested, call **Fahima** at UJA, 635-2883, ext. 142.

VOLUNTEER FOR CREATIVE LIVING

The Bernard Betel Centre for Creative Living at 1003 Steeles Ave. W., is currently in urgent need of outreach volunteers who are able to visit individuals in their homes. A commitment of two hours per week is required. You will be helping others and your benefits will include training and orientation, transportation costs, ongoing workshops and an opportunity to meet new people.

To inquire further, please call **Barbara Zigler,** 225-2112.

COMMUNITY ACTION AWARDS

Elaine Ziemba, minister of citizenship for Ontario with responsibility for disability issues, invites nominations for the 1992 Community Action Awards. Twelve people will be chosen as recipients; most will be disabled. They will be persons who have shown leadership in extending the participation of people with disabilities in our society and economy.

Deadline for nominations is Friday, Jan. 31, 1992. Submit by FAX to area code (416) 327-4097 or by mail to the Ontario Office for Disability Issues, 2nd floor, 700 Bay St. Toronto, Ont., M5G 1Z6.

JEWISH PEN PALS

For people who want to get in touch with others who have similar interests, there is a club of pen friends, International Jewish Correspondence (IJC). Founded and operated by **Barry Simon,** the club has over 5,000 members, ages 5-80, from all over the world.

Letters come to IJC at Canadian Jewish Congress, 1590 Avenue Docteur Penfield, Montreal, Quebec, H3G 1C5, where Simon picks up the mail. There is no fee for membership, just the price of the stamp.

A detailed singles form is available. For further information and for a registration form, write to IJC at Canadian Jewish Congress in Montreal at the above address.

RELATIONSHIPS

A workshop on Relationships - Love, Commitment, Sexuality, will be held Sunday, Dec. 29 from 9.30 a.m.- 4.30 p.m. Leaders are **Doris Strub Epstein** and **Dr. Henry Fenigstein.**

For registration and more information call 787-5331.

DEDICATION

Family and friends have dedicated the running track at the Bloor Y branch of the Jewish Community Centre to the memory of the late Dr. Zane Gordon, a longtime member who died last winter after a long bout with leukemia. Seen here are family members, (from left) Judy Shekter, Joanne Roher, Brian Gordon.

CRAFTS FOR THE '90S

Challenging Creative Outlets is a crafts course for widows, seniors, children and others, which offers the latest and most innovative ideas.

All of us have golden hands; we just need to learn the simple tricks in making beautiful crafts, say the designers who will lead this course.

To inquire further, call **Cecile,** 633-1749 or **Rachel,** 256-1876.

CROHN'S DISEASE VOLUNTEERS

Volunteers with Crohn's disease are needed to participate in an important multi-centre research program studying the effectiveness of a promising medication in the treatment of this disease. The length of the program is approximately one year and will involve a series of visits to the Toronto-area clinic nearest you.

For additional details please call **Anne,** 340-3934.

KEEP UP YOUR HEBREW!

Learning Hebrew is fun and easy with **Yael Lev.**

A second term of Conversational Hebrew starts the week of Jan. 6. Morning, afternoon and evening classes at various levels will be offered at Shaarei Shomayim Synagogue, Beth Tikvah Synagogue and Associated Hebrew Schools on Neptune Drive.

For more information and registration, call **Yael Lev,** 225-6151.

ITA PECHENICK ART DISPLAY

Continuing through December, during regular library hours, Dufferin Clark Library, 1441 Clark Ave. W. in Thornhill; is presenting paintings by watercolor artist **Ita Pechenick.**

To inquire further, call the library, 660-0374.

for seniors

Canadian Israeli Club Aluma, for Israelis and Hebrew-speaking persons 55 and over, meets every Wednesday evening from 7.30-9.30 at the Wagman Centre, 55 Ameer Ave. A few spaces are still available for the New Year's Eve party, featuring music and refreshments. Cost is $7 non-members. Call **Avner Meiri,** 771-0250, **Oved Azuri,** 631-9794 or **Shelley Dunkelman** at the Wagman Centre, 789-5131, ext. 2273.

LZA Seniors Club continues its activities, some in Toronto, some in Florida. Part of the five, seven, nine week and three month trips to Miami include lunches, teas, special dinners and shows. In Toronto, there are the usual daily activities - games, cards, chess, shuffleboard, with light lunches served.

Mah Jong has been added to the regular activities at **Earl Bales Seniors Club.** Ongoing courses in conjunction with North York Board of Education are bridge, fitness and wellness, ballroom and line dancing. The next movie is at 2 p.m. Wednesday, Jan. 8. Members free, non-members $1. For more information call 636-7856.

Everyone is welcome to join the new senior citizens' **Club Hadar**, which meets every Monday from noon-4 p.m. in Room 103 at the Garnet A. Williams Community Centre, 501 Clark

[Cont'd. on page 23]

Organizations and People

What's New

[Cont'd. from page 22]

Ave., Thornhill. To inquire, call **Viola Landman,** 886-2625.

Ongoing programs at **Shaarei Shomayim Friendship Club,** 470 Glencairn Ave., will continue full steam ahead starting in January, 1992. For further details, call **Lena,** 785-5773 or **Ruth,** 224-5923. Remember the Golden Book to mark special occasions. Your donation goes to Laniado Hospital in Israel. Call **Dorothy Bloomfield,** 787-1526.

The Wagman Centre Self-Help Widows Group, 55 years of age and over, meets every other Sunday to help each other with mourning and adjust to loss. The meetings provide a supportive environment for sharing experiences and making new friends. The next two meetings are Sunday, Dec. 22 and Jan. 5, in the library of the Wagman Centre, 55 Ameer Ave. Co-ordinator is **Toby Warsh.** For more information call **Paula David,** 789-5131, ext. 2271.

And at the **Wagman Centre,** 55 Ameer Ave., current events discussions led by **Doug Haddow,** are held every Wednesday, 10-11.30 a.m. in Rooms and B. **Rita Rose** presents a concert, The Golden Oldies, 1.30-3.30 p.m. in the common room.

The Good Age Club of the JCC Bloor Y branch, 750 Spadina Ave., offers the following programs in conjunction with the Toronto Board of Education, Continuing Education: knitting, bridge, fitness, currents events, folk dancing and ceramics. Programs run Monday to Thursday. New session begins Jan. 6. For schedule call **Luni,** 924-6211.

Come with **Young at Heart Seniors** for a Miami vacation of one, two or three months at the Lombardy Hotel. A special package cost of $1,755 (Jan. 30-March 3) includes deluxe medical insurance and cancellation, and more. Call **Helen** at 462-0258 or 635-6343 after 7 p.m.

ANNIVERSARY

A party honoring Ben and Eva Shedletzky on the occasion of their 50th wedding anniversary was held at the Primrose Club recently. Donations were directed to the Association for the Soldiers of Israel for the benefit of the young men and women of the IDF. Pictured above, the Shedletzkys receive a plaque of honor from Jack Muskat (centre), president, Toronto Branch, ASI.

INSTALLATION

Mollie Rothman, who served as the first woman president of Beth Torah Congregation from 1987-89, was again installed as president at a dinner-dance held recently in the synagogue. She accepts the president's gavel from Rabbi Charles Freundlich. [Photo by Terri Rothman].

CENTRE FOR CREATIVE LIVING

The Bernard Betel Centre for Creative Living is located at 1003 Steeles Ave. W. The phone number is 225-2112.

Etrog, an Israeli cultural club for Hebrew-speaking older adults, meets on Tuesdays at 7 p.m. For information, call **Helen Issenberg,** 225-2112.

The Miami trips offer a choice of three hotels, Sasson Hotel (starting at $1,855); Shore Club Hotel ($2,900); Tarleton Hotel ($2,900). Call **Barbara Zigler,** 225-2112, for details.

at the JCC

Register your 5-10 year olds now for winter vacation Fun Days at the Bloor Y branch, 750 Spadina Ave., 9 a.m.-3 p.m. Fee is $25 per day, Dec. 23, 24, 30, 31, Jan. 2 and 3. Places are limited.

Your 8-14 year olds can join the fastest growing activity at the Bloor Y branch - Gymnastics Winter Camp - 9 a.m.-3 p.m., Monday and Tuesday, Dec. 23 and 24, Monday and Tuesday, Dec. 30 and 31, Thursday and Friday, Jan. 2 and 3. Fees are two days $55, four days $110, six days $160.

To inquire further call **Florence,** 924-6211.

Bloor Y TwentySomething Downtowners Club presents dessert, and the Rolling Stones on Imax at the Cinesphere, Sunday, Dec. 22. Meet 2 p.m. at 750 Spadina. Cost is $21. For reservations and payment, call **Luni,** 924-6211. Meet for noon brunch, Sunday, Jan. 5 at 750 Spadina Ave. then it's off to the theatre. Cost is $20. For reservations and information call **Luni,** 924-6211.

Find out about Bloor's Theatre Goers, a new group for 33-45 year olds. To get on the mailing list and for more information, call **Luni,** 924-6211.

The North/East Valley branch, 7015 Leslie St., offers adult duplicate bridge for members, 7.30-11 p.m., Mondays. Cost is $3 per session. Call **Nurit,** 889-0813.

N/E Valley branch with Women's College Hospital, is now offering prenatal classes in Thornhill. Call **Nurit,** 889-0813, or telephone 323-6030 for more information.

Singles Connection, call **Nurit,** 889-0813, for updated information on the lecture series and dances at the N/E Valley.

Call the JCC Singles Hotline, 889-5101 for 24-hour taped information of events at the JCC and around the city.

A great selection of dance courses, including jazz and tap, are offered at the North Y branch, 4588 Bathurst St. For information and registration, call 631-5659.

About People

NEW DIRECTOR FOR CAMP SHALOM

Steve Gillick, who has been associated with Camp Shalom in various capacities since 1972, is the camp's new director.

In his "other life", Steve worked in the travel industry. His academic background is in history and education and he loves to travel. To date he has visited Israel five times and has been to 25 other countries.

Camp Shalom is a Zionist camp specializing in Israeli programming along with water and land sports, arts and crafts. Space is still available for August.

MERCAZ/CANADA ELECTS RUBIN

At the Biennial Convention of the United Synagogue of Conservative Judaism held recently in Kiamesha Lake, New York, **Norma Rubin,** past vice-president of Ontario region, United Synagogue of Conservative Judaism, was named national president of MERCAZ/Canada (Movement to Reaffirm Conservative Zionism).

A member of Congregation Beth David B'nai Israel Beth Am, she served as chairman of the Israel Affairs Committee. She is also hasbarah (dissemination of information and education regarding Israel) chairman in the Canadian Zionist Federation, Central region.

CANADIAN MAGEN DAVID ADOM

The board of directors of Canadian Magen David Adom for Israel announces the election of **Irwin G. Beutel** as national president.

PAINTING IN U.S. GALLERY

Crescendo, an oil painting by **Shirley Winthrope Rivo,** formerly of Toronto, has been acquired by the Morris Museum, Morristown, New Jersey, for its permanent collection.

A recipient of several awards, the artist is the daughter of the late **Esther Winthrope** of Toronto and two of her children graduated from York University. Her family is active with the Jewish Community Centre of Summit, New Jersey.

singles events

Singles Events is an advertising feature of The Canadian Jewish News. ***Deadline is Monday, 5:00 p.m., 10 days preceding issue date.*** *For rates or to place an ad, please call Alan at 422-2528.*

Successful Singles After 5 Network presents **The Christmas Eve "Party of Parties". Tuesday, December 24th. 7:00pm at Club Bluenote,** 128 Pears Avenue. Complimentary Cocktail Buffet, Lucky Draw with lots of Door-prizes and much, much more. Admission $15.00. Come early to avoid lineup. Reservations suggested. **Call now 969-4790.** 8102

Are you tired of paying ridiculous prices for the same theme. Come to the first "No frills dance and skate party" at **Key West,** on December 24 from 8 p.m. Tickets are a mere 7 **bucks.** Hot **freebees**! Must have a ticket to enter. For more info. call 771-8409 (bring skates). 8012

A Touch of Class (35-55) presents **Wine and Cheese Party.** December 25th. 8:00pm. Cost $15.00. Limited space.
New Years Eve Champagne Party (Roast Beef, Salmon Buffet). Champagne at Midnight. 8:30pm. Cost $25.00. Reservations must be pre-paid by December 26th. Call Sonia at 771-8448 for more information. 8100

New Years Eve Dance. Buffet dinner. Live entertainment. 9:00pm. Borochov, 272 Codsell Avenue. **$35.00** per person. Reservations by December 27th. Info., 631-7322. 7979

The Jewish Connection, Toronto's largest video introduction service, invites ages 30-40 to an **Open House** on Sunday, December 22nd, 12-4pm. 5505 Yonge Street. 512-8124. Come see what we're all about. 8103

Metro Toronto Singles presents our largest party of the year, and possibly our largest ever. **Tuesday, December 24th.** 7:00pm. (Christmas Eve). Our 6th annual Chanukah Party at **Berlin** and **Yuk-Yuk's Uptown.** Both parties are at 2535 Yonge Street, North of Eglinton Avenue. 2 parties for the price of 1. Yuk-Yuk's downstairs and Berlin upstairs. Cover $15.00. For information **222-7111. 750 people expected** this year. 7933

Boxing Day Special. Thursday, December 26. 7:00pm. Party at the Club Bluenote, 128 Pears Avenue. Cover originally $15.00, now only $10.00. Appearing at the Bluenote is Liberty Silver. Call early for dinner reservations. For more information call Felix productions. 783-0973. 8098

Dynamite Party!!!!
End of the year blast!!!! Wiseblatt, Goldstein, Cohen and Rubenstein presents a phenomenal event at The Club Bluenote (your Rhythm and Blues connection in downtown Toronto) 128 Pears Avenue. Special guest star, performing live, the one and only Liberty Silver, with special guest Mr. Bill King. There will be 3 separate shows, D.J.s during intermission. Door cover $12.00. Doors open at 7:00pm, please come early to avoid lineups. Saturday, December 28th. Dress code in effect. Grand door prize, $100 gift certificate to HMV, the music experts. Special note: early dinner reservations are available, please call Club Bluenote, 921-6034, to reserve. The singles event of the year. Don't miss it!!!! 7938

RAISING FUNDS

Congregation Habonim of Toronto has worked tirelessly raising funds for UJA/Operation Exodus to help meet needs of Soviet aliyah in Israel and locally as well. With thumbs up, and a cheque representing the result of their efforts, are (from left) Rae Steuermann, vice president, Michael Barchash and Sharon Grossman. Not in the photo is Gangolf Herman, president. [Photo by Graphic Artists].

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Organizations and People

Dr. Levi Jacober, at his retirement in 1970.

Jacober known for his kindness

By
LEILA SPEISMAN

TORONTO —

Dr. Levi Jacober, a founder and long-time principal of Associated Hebrew Day Schools, died recently at the age of 88.

Those who knew him praised him for his kindness, his towering intellect, and his scholarship.

Jacober was born in Miskeesha, in the Ukraine, in 1903.

His father, the shammes of the Kiever shul in the Kensington Market area, brought him and his mother to Toronto in the early 1920s.

Jacober attended the University of Toronto and McMaster University (at the time they were both in Toronto) and received his PhD in Middle Eastern languages and philosophy from the U of T.

He began teaching at the Associated evening school on Brunswick Avenue, where he became the principal. He was instrumental in founding the day school in 1942, when he became its principal, a post he held until his retirement almost 30 years later.

After he retired, he remained an active consultant, says Associated executive director Arthur Tannenbaum, attending meetings of the education committee, interviewing potential religious studies teachers, helping wherever he was needed.

"He was always available," says Tannenbaum."He was the most dedicated educator I've ever had the privilege to know."

Son-in-law Arthur Kruger, now principal of University College at the University of Toronto, called him "as close to a Renaissance man as I've ever known. His knowledge was encyclopedic. He knew 20 languages, and read widely."

Prof. Noah Meltz, principal of Woodsworth College of the University of Toronto, studied Talmud with him for 17 years, until the week before he died.

Meltz echoed Kruger's comments. "Studying with him was a wonderful experience. He knew Greek, the language of technology which was used in the Gemara. He was learned in both the general and the Jewish sense.

"He was a fine person. It is personally a great loss."

Meltz recalled that Jacober, who was very modest, let slip that on receiving his PhD, he was offered positions at both Oxford University and the New School of Social Work in New York.

"He said he turned them down, because he would have had to give up chinuch."

Jack Burke, who taught with him from 1937 at Associated, and succeeded him as principal, called Jacober "a distinguished scholar and a great educator, who believed in intensive Jewish education, both in the Hebrew language and in classical Hebrew literature."

Burke noted that Jacober was a fervent Zionist, considering the State of Israel a focal point of the program.

Burke and Tannenbaum noted that Jacober was a pioneer in the "ivrit b'ivrit," method of teaching Hebrew in the Hebrew language.

Tannenbaum said that he remembered students' names, even years afterwards.

CJN staffer Ella Burakowski remembers that when she came to Associated, Jacober would always talk to her in the halls and make sure she was all right. "He was a wonderful man."

One of his greatest loves was his family. Daughter Betty Kruger said that his grandchildren treasure his letters to them, which dealt with philosophical, textual and halachic matters.

"He had even started to teach his great-grandchildren," Betty Kruger said.

Jacober leaves his wife, the former Fanny Schulman, whom he married in 1935, daughter Betty, four grandchildren and two great-grandchildren.

Tannenbaum said that a scholarship fund has been set up in his memory. At the request of Jacober and his family, it will be used for educational purposes.

Applebaum lived to 106

TORONTO —

The life of Fanny Applebaum, who died recently at the age of 106, spanned a small town in Russia, school in England, wooden sidewalks in Toronto and a busy retirement at Baycrest Terrace.

Born Fanny Soren, in 1885 in Katarinoslav Gebernya, she moved with her parents and three brothers (a sister had already died) to London, England, at the age of 5.

Her father died soon after, and, while she went to school, her brothers learned the scrap metal business from her uncles.

When she was 18, the family came to Canada, settling first in Joliet, Quebec and then in Toronto, where her mother ran a boarding house on Elizabeth Street.

Fanny helped support the family by working as an operator at Eaton's.

She fell in love with a young Polish boarder, Lazar Applebaum, "who used to lie on his bed and read," her daughter Estelle Waldman said. "She had never seen anything like that."

They married in 1909.

Waldman says her mother led an active life, doing much work for charity.

In her younger years, she worked for the Cecil Street Home for the Aged, the forerunner of Baycrest, and also for an organization called the Hebrew Women's Convalescent Home, which was trying to raise money to build a convalescent home.

She is survived by her sons Joe and Mac, and daughters Belle Sobel and Estelle Waldman, 11 grandchildren and 15 great-grandchildren. — L.S.

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Frank Bader & Family

City of Toronto

Important Notice to City of Toronto Residents and Merchants

There will be **no Blue Box Collection** on **Wednesday, December 25, 1991, Christmas Day** and on **Wednesday, January 1, 1992, New Year's Day.**

There will be **no garbage collection** on **Thursday, December 26, 1991, Boxing Day.**

- Garbage normally collected on Thursday, December 26, 1991, will be picked up on Monday, December 30, 1991.
- Blue Box pick-up of recyclables will resume on Wednesday, January 8, 1992.

Please help keep Toronto clean by placing garbage out for collection on the proper day. Never place glass or sharp objects in plastic garbage bags.

Nicholas Vardin, P. Eng., City Engineer and Commissioner,
Department of Public Works and the Environment

Women's Canadian ORT elects new officers

Women's Canadian ORT elected the following executive officers at its recent 20th National Convention: Nat'l President Lydia London; 1st V-P & Treasurer Edie Glazer; Nat'l V-Ps Babette Barkoff and Priva Drimer (Montreal), Judy Charach (Winnipeg), Karen Rubin and Marilyn Somers (Toronto), Lane Stein (Vancouver); Financial Secretary Nancy Golberg and Recording Secretary Leona Kape (Montreal); Corresponding Secretary Nadja Rosa (Hamilton); Members-at-Large April Katz and Yael Wollach (Victoria); New Hon. V-Ps: Minnie Cummings Abbey (Montreal), Esther Dayson (Vancouver), Bertha Dermer (Toronto), Sylvia Katz (Hamilton); and Hon. Treasurer Ann Houpt (Toronto). The late Rose Dudelzak (Calgary), and Muriel Levine (Ottawa), were named in memoriam.

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Israeli dancing & songs
Jewish culture
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Arts & Crafts
Five weeks
Sun., June 28-Sun., Aug. 2
$1,700

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To all former students
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Nursing home fires evangelical minister

By
RON CSILLAG

TORONTO —
Red-faced officials at the Cheltenham Nursing Home on Bathurst Street have "terminated" a contract to have the head of the Toronto Jewish Mission — a Christian evangelical group — act as a volunteer chaplain.

Joan O'Brien, the home's administrator, told *The CJN* she "goofed" when she asked Rev. Doug Freeman to minister to the facility's Protestant patients.

"It was an error in judgment. Quite frankly, I was just looking for a Baptist minister," she said after she informed Freeman that his contract was ended.

Canadian Jewish Congress, Ontario region, pointed out to the home's officials that the mission has a long-standing reputation of targeting Jews for conversion to Christianity.

The Toronto Jewish Mission, located in New Covenant House on Sheppard Avenue West, is described by Jews for Judaism, a counter-missionary and educational outreach group, as the oldest mission of its kind in the city.

It was founded in 1894 and has been targeting Jews for conversion ever since, says Jews for Judaism founder Julius Ciss.

The matter came to a boil last week, when a mission newsletter noted that Pastor Freeman was asked by the nursing home to act as a chaplain and that he accepted.

"We now have a recognized ministry in a nursing home where there are 94 Jewish residents," the newsletter added.

The home's population is about 170 and there are no more than 60 Jewish patients, O'Brien pointed out.

She said she met Freeman when he used to visit a resident who was a Baptist minister.

"The Protestants here were lacking spiritual advice and I asked him [to be a chaplain]. I didn't know that much about him."

She said the home's Jewish residents are ministered to by volunteers from Jewish Family & Child Service and by Rabbi Sheldon Steinberg, JF&CS's staff chaplain.

Ciss told *The CJN* that from his experience as a one-time "Hebrew-Christian," the agenda of the Toronto Jewish Mission "is the conversion of the entire Jewish population of Toronto."

Freeman told *The CJN* prior to his contract's termination that the mission, which is an "independent evangelical" organization, does not target Jews for conversion.

He said the newsletter did a head count of Jews at the nursing home "because we have a lot of friends there. We've been very well accepted and these are all people we have come to know."

The newsletter asks of the mission's followers to "Please continue to pray with us for the salvation of the Jewish people and for a fruitful new year."

It also notes that its team is working to deliver Christmas tracts to 4,000 homes in "a Jewish area."

Freeman said a *CJN* article would be "without our approval."

CJC last week commended the nursing home for its "quick action" on the matter.

But community relations committee chairman David Satok denounced the mission's "vulture-like tactics" and its "missionizing to vulnerable Jewish elderly."

He said the matter should be a "red flag" for other nursing homes with Jewish populations.

Toronto school celebrates Chanukah, Christmas

By
PAUL LUNGEN

TORONTO —
When John Wanless School opened its doors to the public last week, visitors were treated to colorful seasonal displays of Christmas trees, Chanukah menorahs, and crafts employing themes from the two winter festivals.

Holiday quilts were on display, as were gingerbread houses and holiday decorations. For those with a musical ear, a songfest of holiday songs was also on offer.

The open house represented an effort by the school, located in the Avenue Road, Lawrence Avenue area, to offer an "inclusive" holiday program in which all students will feel welcome, said Marshall Henkle, president of the school's parents association.

Henkle said that in the space of one year, John Wanless has taken the lead in Toronto in developing "inclusive programming" that presents "the opportunity to celebrate everyone's background and religion."

Other schools are looking to John Wanless to see how it has tackled the issue of marking religious holidays in a way that doesn't make minority children feel unwelcome, he said.

Last December, the situation at John Wanless was quite different. Some parents became angry when the school songfest was cancelled while in September, Jewish parents were upset that a school tea was scheduled for Rosh Hashanah eve.

The school established a heritage and culture committee to examine the issues raised by the two incidents and invited Karen Mock, national director of B'nai Brith's League for Human Rights, to be the group's facilitator.

After five months of work, the committee issued a report and adopted a multicultural race relations policy that reflects "the diversity of Canada," Mock said.

One element in the policy commits the school "to an inclusive curriculum and school climate free of stereotyping in which all students see themselves as reflected."

Hari Lalla, race relations curriculum co-ordinator of the Toronto Board of Education, said the board is asking all schools to consider adopting a race relations and multiculturalism policy.

Lalla said Ministry of Education guidelines clearly spell out the prohibition against inculcating one particular faith, though teaching about various beliefs is permitted.

Each school will determine how it will mark the holiday season, Lalla said, adding that "I emphasize that the celebration of Christmas and the singing of carols has never been banned by the Toronto board."

Canadian Jewish Congress will continue to provide school boards with information "to sensitize them to the needs of non-Christian students in the classroom," said Congress spokesman Bernie Farber.

He said Congress is now working with two school boards in Central Ontario (between Belleville and Ottawa) where Jewish parents have raised concerns about a kindergarten where a teacher set up a creche displaying the Nativity scene, where only Christmas carols are sung and where a teacher is preparing a Christmas play based on the Nativity scene.

Farber said Congress' position is that the holiday season should be used to teach about religious practices and not to promote one particular faith.

IN MEMORIAM

MARTIN KELNER ז"ל

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Organizations and People

BAYT members dedicate Torah to Tanenbaums

THORNHILL —

The members of Beth Avraham Yoseph of Toronto Congregation recently dedicated a Torah scroll in honor of synagogue president Joseph Tanenbaum and his wife Faye.

The festivities began at the next door Eitz Chaim Schools building, where Tanenbaum received the honor of writing the final letter.

The new Torah, accompanied by three additional new Torah scrolls, donated to the synagogue by other shul families, was escorted to the synagogue by an enthusiastic crowd of shul members, Eitz Chaim students, music, singing and dancing.

As part of the tenth anniversary celebrations of the synagogue, which has grown from a minyan in a private basement to a renovated house, to the building on Clark Avenue, a plaque honoring the founding members was unveiled by Faye Tanenbaum.

Major contributors to the synagogue were also honored.

The event culminated a five-year campaign during which each family attending the annual Simchat Torah dinner made a special contribution. The dinner, which draws over 900 people, is donated by the Tanenbaum family.

Many members also took the opportunity to dedicate individual letters in the new Torah.

Albert Silverman and Alan Fink co-chaired the event.

Joseph Tanenbaum (second from right) writes the last letter of the Torah scroll dedicated in his honor by members of Beth Avraham Yoseph Congregation. Looking on are (from left): grandson John Kaplan; son Wayne; wife Faye; and scribe Rabbi Tzvi Fleisher. [Randy Zelcer photo]

PC Bowman joins ethnic squad

By RON CSILLAG

TORONTO —

Metro Toronto police has a new Jewish "section." Police Constable Allan Bowman is now the force's liaison to Metro's Jewish community.

A 15-year police veteran, Bowman, himself Jewish, took over recently from Howard Clements, who has returned to uniform duty.

More accurately, Bowman is a member of the force's Inter-Community Relations Unit, also known as the ethnic squad.

Set up in the early 1970s, the unit works with Metro's myriad ethnic communities and has as its mandate the creation and maintenance of harmonious inter-ethnic relations, the resolution of problems and assisting investigating officers in solving racially-motivated crimes.

The unit is broken down into squads and officers who interact with Metro's South Asian, Oriental, Italian, black, Filipino, Spanish, Portuguese, French, Greek and Jewish communities.

PC Allan Bowman

A 36-year-old bachelor, Bowman is getting a quick education in his new job.

"I'm just amazed at how diverse the Jewish community is," he told *The CJN*. "It cuts across all sorts of lines."

A plainclothes officer, he'll work with B'nai Brith Canada and Canadian Jewish Congress, and will be on hand at most Jewish functions.

He'll also be around whenever tension arises between the Jewish and general communities. Past examples would include the trials of Ernst Zundel and speaking engagements of British Holocaust denier David Irving.

And it will be Bowman who will act as middleman between the Jewish community and police in cases of synagogue and cemetery desecrations, swastika daubings and individual incidents of anti-Semitism.

He has at least one immediate sensitive task before him: convincing Metro's burgeoning Soviet Jewish emigre community not to fear the police.

Bowman's parents belonged to the old Beth Am Congregation on Keele Street, before it merged with Beth David in Downsview. He attended afternoon Jewish school.

After graduating from police college in 1976, he spent a number of years in downtown's hardscrabble 52 Division, three years in the Mounted Unit and then as an instructor in defensive tactics at the college.

He's a first-degree black belt in the Japanese martial art of aikido, which stresses controlling an opponent and not necessarily hurting him.

Bowman is looking for input from the community: "I can't really do this job alone. I need as much support as I can get from individuals."

Call him at (416) 324-6302.

Hamilton yeshiva gets new premises

By MOURA WOLPERT

HAMILTON —

Quietly, without fanfare, Canada's newest yeshivah opened here last fall.

The official dedication ceremony will not take place until May of 1992, but now that its first 12 students have moved from temporary quarters into their own building, Yeshiva Beth Yitzhak of Hamilton can be declared well and truly open.

The yeshiva is a 34-year-old dream come true for its founder, Rabbi Morton Green.

(This is not, incidentally, Rabbi Green's first dream come true. In 1962, just four years after coming to Hamilton as spiritual leader of the Orthodox Adas Israel congregation, he founded the Hamilton Hebrew Academy Zichron Meir, now a thriving day school with an enrolment of close to 300 students).

Housed in a newly renovated former public school and situated just below the escarpment on a quiet street in the west end of Hamilton, the yeshiva's proposed $5 million, 10-acre campus will include not only a high school department with its own sports facilities and playing fields, faculty residences and even a seniors' recreation centre, but will eventually become "a college of Jewish studies.

"We are talking here," states Rabbi Green, "about an international institution, affiliated with McMaster University."

Enquiries are already coming in from various centres in Canada as well as the United States and by next year, he confidently expects the yeshiva to have some 40 to 50 students.

The school will be known as the Irving Zucker College of Jewish Studies, named after its major patron, Irving Zucker, who recently also made important contributions to the Art Gallery of Hamilton and Theatre Aquarius.

Anne (Kaplan) and Mark Mandell have established the Kaplan Institute for Talmud Studies, while the science centre and study hall (beth ha-midrash) have been dedicated, respectively, by Joseph and Margo Rethazy and Joseph and Ida Snajdman.

The school's principal is Rabbi Hayim Soloveichik, a native of Chicago and the son of Rabbi Aaron Soloveichik. A former lecturer in Talmud at Yeshiva University, Rabbi Soloveichik received his MA from Northwestern University and simcha from Rabbi Isaac Elchanan Theological Seminary of Yeshiva University.

The "intent and purpose" of the new yeshiva, said Rabbi Green in a recent interview, was to establish a school of higher Jewish education in its broadest possible sense.

Every generation, he explained, "has the obligation to ensure not only the survival of the Jewish people in a physical sense, but to maintain the spirituality of our tradition and also, to preserve the Jewish way of life in all its ramifications."

What he has in mind, said Green, "is a yeshiva that will not only present our sacred tradition in its classic form, with accessibility to the classic sources," but one that will also "embrace a general studies program that will be viewed as a sacred mission to understanding the world in which we live and [prepare students] to participate totally in all aspects of life."

Green maintains that in order to survive in a free society, Jews must not only "possess the knowledge and understanding of our faith and be dedicated to it with a passion," they must also have "a love of Am Yisrael" — the Jewish people — in Israel and the Diaspora, as well as a strong feeling of unity with every Jew who is committed to Jewish survival.

He stressed that the yeshiva will be "a very strong, pro-Israel yeshiva, identified with the Hesder yeshivas in Israel . . . where all students are required to serve in the army and not just in the service corps, but are actually the 'tankists' and parachutists and the pilots and those in the front line."

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IDELS GRAPHICS

Consulate general renovated

By
FRANCES KRAFT

TORONTO —

The Israeli Consulate General in Toronto is one of the largest consulates in North America, serving a geographical area that includes Ontario, Manitoba, Saskatchewan, Alberta, British Columbia and the Yukon Territories, says Oren David, acting consul general.

With renovations that were completed in September, the offices of the consulate general now reflect that status.

The consulate general, the Israel Government Tourist Office (IGTO) and the Israel Economic Mission, which deals with trade between Canada and Israel and Canadian investment in Israel, now occupy the entire seventh floor of 180 Bloor St. W. Previously they had about two thirds of the floor.

The Israel Economic Mission offices remain unchanged and are linked to the other offices by a passageway.

When another tenant on the floor moved out, said David, "we seized the opportunity [to expand]."

Services provided by the office were not disrupted by the renovations, David said. "Work didn't stop even for a minute."

Although the renovations didn't facilitate any new services (a consulate has services it must perform, regardless of where it is located, *The CJN* was told), they made a definite difference in comfort both for employees and people who need their services.

Before the renovations, the waiting area for people who needed passports or visas was cramped and stuffy, especially in the summer, said Betty Kruger, who works at the consulate. Now the room is airier, with more writing room for people to fill out forms.

The staff at the IGTO are also happy with their new office. "We have about 300 square feet more," said Ellen Melman, "and we could see the leaves turning color in the fall." (Their previous offices were cramped and windowless.)

A reception was held last week to celebrate the opening of the renovated offices. Among the over 100 guests were Itzhak Shelef, Israeli ambassador to Canada, who affixed the mezuzah to the main door; Dr. Gerald Halbert, former UJA chairman and past president, Canadian Friends of the Hebrew University; Esther Matlow, national president of Hadassah; Rose Wolfe, chancellor of the University of Toronto; Les Scheininger, president, Canadian Jewish Congress (CJC); Moshe Ronen, chairman of the executive committee, CJC; Rabbi Benjamin Friedberg of Beth Tzedec Synagogue; and Rabbi Dow Marmur of Holy Blossom Temple.

In addition to David, officials of the newly renovated offices included Yehuda Shen, IGTO director; and Benjamin Noy, trade commissioner, of the Israel Economic Mission.

Israeli Ambassador Itzhak Shelef affixes the mezuzah at the Israeli Consulate General in Toronto. [Graphic Artists photo]

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Bronfman awards assist students

ALBANY, N.Y. —

Applications are now available for the 1992 Bronfman Youth Fellowship in Israel.

The fellowships, now in their sixth year, offer an opportunity for 25 students entering their senior year of high school to spend five weeks in Israel during the summer. Fellows will be chosen on the basis of character, intellectual interests, special talents and leadership qualities. In the competitive selection process, merit, not financial need, is the standard for selection.

While living in Jerusalem, the Bronfman fellows participate in seminars and dialogues with a diverse rabbinic faculty, representing a wide range of Jewish perspectives. They explore Jewish text against the background of Israel's land, culture and customs. In addition, fellows will meet with some of Israel's prominent political and literary figures to examine contemporary issues in light of Jewish history and tradition.

The Bronfman Youth Fellowships in Israel is a program of the Samuel Bronfman Foundation, Inc., of which Edgar M. Bronfman is chairman.

In explaining the purpose of the fellowships, Bronfman said, "Our hope is to open lines of communication among a group of outstanding young people on the major issues confronting the Jewish people in all its diversity."

The Bronfman Youth Fellowships program begins on July 12, 1992 with a two-day seminar in New York City. The students return from Israel on Aug. 19, 1992. All meals will be kosher, and Sabbath activities will be in the spirit of the day. All expenses are covered by the program, including round-trip international transportation, room and board, travel in Israel and incidentals.

High school students in the United States and Canada who will be seniors in the fall of 1992 may obtain application forms and detailed information by writing: The Bronfman Youth Fellowships in Israel, 17 Wilbur Street, Albany, N.Y., 12202, or by calling 518-465-6575.

Completed applications must be postmarked no later than Jan. 31, 1992. Finalists will be notified March 2 and finalist interviews will be held from March 15-24. Names of the 1992 Fellowship recipients will be announced on March 31.

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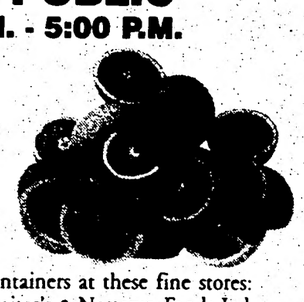

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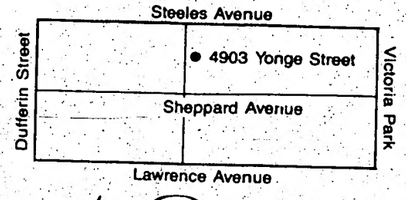

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Frank Rasky's SHOWBIZ SHORTS

This week I'd like to salute a number of multi-talented Jewish women in the arts able to juggle several activities simultaneously.

Consider **Rhonda Liss**, a dynamo in her 30s, who used to perform in her own nightclub act in the Catskills Borscht Belt circuit, can sing pop or opera in seven languages including Yiddish, and has been an original cast member of *Phantom Of The Opera* at the Pantages Theatre for more than two years.

Frank Rasky

In her spare time, she managed to produce and direct *Love One Another*, a new $9.99 cassette designed to aid the outreach program of the Woodgreen Community Centre, 835 Queen St. E. (469-5211). She brought together teenagers from a variety of ethnic groups to perform songs of peace. Among them are 17-year-old **Hartley Wynberg**, who played the guitar for *Believe In Me* and Toronto law student **Doron Levinson**, who composed *Lay Down Your Arms*, which has been performed by the Habonim Youth Choir.

Liss is now writing and producing *Mengelmoose*, a multicultural children's cassette and book series about a tuba-playing cartoon character, who travels around the world collecting folkmusic and folktales.

How does she squeeze all these activities in a 24-hour day? "I take blue-green algae for mental focus," she says, "plus Chinese herbal supplements which really help my energy level."

Rhonda Liss

Michelle Illiatovitch

Michelle Illiatovitch is the sort of entertainer who makes intelligent use of her other social roles. At 44, she is a school teacher; a feelings-oriented adult therapist (who trained with **Dr. Thomas Verny**, author of *The Secret Life Of The Unborn Child*); the wife of **Jeff Goldman**, a Toronto therapist-social worker; and the mother of three children, **David**, 16, **Sarah**, 5, and **Kestra**, 2.

She has combined all these roles in her function as the storyteller on a delightful new $11.99 cassette, *Between Two Babies* (731-8792), designed for children aged 3 to 12. What makes the tape so unusual is that it entertains the youngsters while helping them adjust emotionally to various situations. For example, *Angelica's Egg* is about a girl suffering the loss of a parent; *Hector The What!* deals with a boy who successfully perseveres in being different, though incurring the scorn of his friends.

One of the most charming of the stories, *It Could Be Worse*, is her recollection of an old Yiddish folktale that her Russian immigrant father, **Sheldon Illiatovitch**, recounted to her as a bedtime favorite. Interestingly, the title of the tape refers to the time span separating the birth of her two youngest children.

Two other versatile entertainers both in **Dory Sweeney's** ribald comedy, *Eating Disorders*, running from Dec. 19 to 21 at the Theatre Centre (538-0988).

One is **Cayle Chernin**, the prolific actress, film director, scenario writer and president of the Albert J. Latner Jewish Public Library. In the comedy, she plays an indulgent mother who spoils her son, a neurotic restaurateur who murders a food critic.

Chernin is now working on a screenplay based on an original unpublished novel, *The Man Who Couldn't Lose*, written 60 years ago. She discovered the manuscript during the reading program she conducts for seniors at Central Park Lodge on Spadina. **Marcus Adeney**, a 91-year-old former cellist with the Toronto Symphony, shyly submitted it for reading, and Chernin was thrilled. It deals with a musician who performs in theatres during the silent movie era and is fearful of losing his job with the arrival of talking pictures.

Also performing in *Eating Disorders* is **Honey Novick**, who sings an original samba, *Who Am I?* Novick, who teaches singing at the Creative Vocalization Studio, at 707 Eglinton Ave. W. (782-7944) and who has performed with the Toronto Jewish Folk Choir, is working on a "labor of love." She hopes to produce a record album of Yiddish songs "from a female perspective — where women speak out from their heart about their work, their fury, their ideas and passions."

During the holiday season, for children aged 5 and up, I recommend *Tea At The Palace*, a truly enchanting puppet show based on Russian legends, directed by **Sharon Weisbaum**, and enacted by puppeteers **Ann** and **David Powell**. It runs from Dec. 20 to Jan. 5 at Tarragon Extra Space (531-1827).

I bow out with this definition of censorship made 400 years ago by **William Shakespeare:**

"Art made tongue-tied by authority."

Maus sequel continues work on Holocaust

By RON CSILLAG

TORONTO —

Those who recall reading a revolutionary little book entitled *Maus, A Survivor's Tale*, which came out in 1986, may also remember hungrily pining for more when they finished.

Such was the impact of *Maus*, a hugely-acclaimed epic told in tiny, comic-book pictures. Author and artist Art Spiegelman pulled off what many were appalled to first think was a comic-book treatment of the Holocaust.

In quiet, humbly-drawn little black-and-white boxes, Spiegelman recounted his father Vladek's war-time experiences depicting Jews as mice, Nazis as cats, Poles as pigs and Americans as dogs. Tom and Jerry this wasn't.

Along with the highly critical and commercial success (10 printings, over 100,000 copies sold in North America) Spiegelman established the genre as a serious presence in pop culture and single-handedly created a new kind of literature.

Readers may pine no more. After five years of steady work, Spiegelman has produced a sequel in *Maus II, And Here My Troubles Began* (Random House, $23.50). Though not as satisfying as part one, the author has, nevertheless, concluded a literary coup.

Spiegelman once again approaches the unspeakable with a poetic reverence and baits the reader via the child's imagination in us all. All preconceptions about comics must be cast aside, for this is no usual Sunday funny.

The story of Spiegelman's father's terrifying ordeal of survival in the monstrous mousetrap of Nazi Europe forms the major plot-lines of both volumes. On another level, the books are an account of the cartoonist's troubled relationship with his aging father, with whom he tries to come to terms in the face of endless arguments and disagreements.

Son killed in camps

Vladek's first son Richieu was killed in the camps and Artie, his father feels, is not up to snuff. Combining autobiography with self-portrait, the author inserts himself in his tale as a mouse in a trademark suit vest and ever-present cigaret, who suffered a nervous breakdown following his mother's suicide in 1968. As the narrative shifts between Auschwitz and the Catskills, Spiegelman tapes over 50 hours of conversation with his father, who's been reduced to a miser and chronic complainer.

Vladek Spiegelman, book one told us, was a textile salesman in the Polish city of Czestochowa on the eve of the war. He married Anja Zylberberg in 1936 and moved to Sosnowiec. Three years later, the Germans invaded Poland and the Nazi madness was on. Countless close brushes with death, clandestine meetings, flukes and hairpin decisions are all faithfully recorded, but in a deceptively uncluttered way. Whom can the Jews bribe, as their relatives and friends are "relocated," never to be heard from again? How to protect the children? After various flights, the Spiegelmans' luck runs out in the last chapter, as Anja arrives at Birkenau and Vladek at Auschwitz.

Book two picks up the thread, with Vladek surviving the death camp purely by guile and wits. Because he speaks English, he tutors a Polish capo in the language, thus earning him preferential treatment. Other job skills he has — shoe repair, roofing — stand him in relatively good stead through his 10 months of horror.

Vladek's "troubles" begin after evacuation from Auschwitz and the forced march to Gross-Rosen, inside Germany. Endless train rides on which thousands perished, a bout with typhus and hiding at an abandoned farm finally culminate in liberation by American troops and his reuniting with Anya.

Vladek Spiegelman died in 1982, never to know the impact of his son's work. *Maus* (German for mouse) has been studied at several universities as serious literature and used as a Holocaust teaching tool at some high schools. Fifteen translations, including one into Hebrew, have been completed.

Although not without critics, who charge that comic portrayals trivialize Auschwitz, the *Maus* collection should take its rightful place in Holocaust literature.

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Arts

Aspects of Love similar to gorging on bonbons

The Lively ARTS

By
FRANK RASKY

Lori Alter, accomplished scene-stealer.

Forget about the high-tech gimmickry of Andrew Lloyd Webber's mega-musical spectaculars the likes of *The Phantom Of The Opera.*

His *Aspects Of Love*, which is running until mid-February with an advance ticket sale of $2 million at the 1,500-seat Elgin Theatre at 189 Yonge St. (872-5555), is more a scaled-down operetta than grand opera. And, frankly, I have mixed feelings about it.

If I had to sum it up in two lines, I'd call it a sophisticated, stylish, highly literate romantic comedy of the Noel Coward genre, dealing with the amours of London's Bloomsbury-Mayfair high society set, ranging from puppy love to fatherly love, with decadent hints of lesbianism and semi-incest in between.

And during its 2½ hours, you can expect Webber's repetitive chamber music played with brio by a 13-piece orchestra and the brittle, sometimes witty dialogue sung by a gifted cast of 19 in erratically rhyming couplets.

Now let's deal with its negative aspects first.

The main problem is the sameness of the music. With three exceptions, you leave the theatre humming the elegant scenery of Toronto's Jewish set designer Phillip Silver.

Those exceptions are the pleasant theme song, *Love Changes Everything*, the gutsy lament, *Anything But Lonely*, and the tender *The First Man You Remember*. The rest of the 14 melodic refrains sound like echoes of Webber's previous musicals.

Another problem is the musical's book, which is based on the 1955 novella of a minor Bloomsbury author, David Garnett. It begins as a bittersweet romance between a 17-year-old English college student named Alex and a capricious older actress named Rose. She winds up marrying Alex's elderly uncle, George, a rascally libertine painter, who already has a liaison going with a sculptress mistress, Giulietta.

Over a period of three generations, the couplings and uncouplings of these frivolous, self-engrossed characters are climaxed by the beginning of a love affair between 31-year-old Alex and 15-year-old Jenny, the daughter of the aging Rose and her 80-year-old roue of a husband.

I found it difficult to identify with any of these privileged but superficial sophisticates. Indeed, I never did find out how the lovestruck Alex supported himself.

On the positive side, I found myself laughing a great deal in the first act at the worldly witticisms of the urbane artist, George. He is portrayed with wonderful panache by Keith Michell, the suave, moustachioed actor who has played Angela Lansbury's lover and fellow sleuth in the CBS TV series, *Murder She Wrote*. Here the philosophy of the skirt-chaser is contained in the cynical line, "A love affair is not a lifetime."

Unfortunately, his wit turns into sentimental slush in the draggy second act.

Another accomplished scene-stealer is Lori Alter in the role of Jenny. I remember the 24-year-old Toronto Jewish singer years ago playing Intrepid Shapiro in *Jacob Two Two Meets The Hooded Fang* at Young People's Theatre. Her acting skill has since become much refined at York University, and she is a standout in her present role.

Finally, Robin Phillips, former artistic director of the Stratford Festival, deserves considerable credit for revamping the overblown script which I saw in London's West End, and staging it here with such artful finesse.

Aspects Of Love is too subtle and Englishfied to please lovers of passionate melodrama or high-kicking chorus line musicals. But if you like the polished drawing room comedy of Noel Coward or Oscar Wilde, as I do, you'll probably enjoy the understated infidelities displayed in Webber's latest romp. It's like gorging yourself on a rich diet of chocolate bonbons.

Books

By
BERNARD BASKIN

Days of Honey, Days of Onion: The Story of a Palestinian Family in Israel by Michael Gorkin, Oxford University Press $34.95

The 700,000 Palestinians in Israel, those who remained after 1948, are citizens of the country and make up about 17 percent of the population. Eighty-seven percent are Muslim, the remainder Christian. Unlike the Palestinians in the territories, they are not the focus of media attention and relatively little is written or said about them. They have been aptly described as the invisible or forgotten Israelis.

With few exceptions they are not actively involved in the intifada uprising nor are they members or supporters of the PLO. Israelis who usually took their patriotism and loyalty for granted were shaken when many of them welcomed the Scuds that fell on Israel during the recent war and hoped for an Iraqi victory.

About 70 percent of Israel's Arab citizens live in over 100 all-Arab towns and villages. The remainder live in a dozen cities, either mixed Arab-Jewish communities such as Haifa, Tel Aviv/Jaffa, or in all Arab communities such as Nazareth. Understandably, they have undergone tremendous social and economic changes since the establishment of the State.

The author of this illuminating account of a people increasingly conscious of their ethnic identity is an American Jew who emigrated to Israel in the early '80s. He is a practising clinical psychologist in Jerusalem and former co-ordinator of the Arab Psychotherapy Project at Hebrew University.

He spent two years (1989 - 90) in close contact with the Palestinian family of Abu Hamad, who lives in a small village in central Israel. He does an admirable job in conveying something of the lives and concerns of the family patriarch and his wife — as well as their nine children and 26 grandchildren.

He asks questions such as these. How do Palestinians in Israel regard the possibilities of peace? How has their situation changed these past 40 years — education, religion, the role of women? How have they reacted to the message of Muslim fundamentalism? Do they feel like second-class citizens, or that they have been unfairly treated? How strong is their loyalty to the Jewish state?

The author presents his findings in the form of vignettes from daily life, or through recollections and historical flashbacks told to him by one or another of the family members, or their friends.

With keen insight into their fears, aspirations, sense of pride and cultural traditions, Gorkin portrays the daily life of a farmer, the village celebration of the holy month of Ramadan, a wedding, the management of a family illness, a day at the local high school and the impact of the intifada and Arab Land Day observances on the Arab Israelis.

Especially engrossing are the stories of a family member who becomes a Palestinian guerilla and of another who marries a Jewish woman from Argentina.

Gorkin draws no conclusions from his reportage, but lets the characters, events and anecdotes speak for themselves. What emerges is a revealing portrait of an intelligent, warm and well-meaning people who are caught in vortex of change, uncertainty and frustration. They are in the painful position — as some of them put it — of having "my country at war with my people."

TV focuses on open air market

By
SHELDON KIRSHNER

Mahane Yehuda, West Jerusalem's aromatic open air market, is the subject of Jack Kuper's short documentary, to be broadcast on Vision TV on Dec. 20 at 9 p.m.

It does not matter that *The Jerusalem Market* was made 21 years ago. Mahane Yehuda has changed very little since then, and is still one of Jerusalem's most colorful attractions.

To Kuper — a Toronto filmmaker best known for *A Day in the Warsaw Ghetto: A Birthday Trip to Hell* — Mahane Yehuda is a metaphor for life itself.

The market comes alive early in the morning, as vendors open the shutters of their shops and as workers bring in fresh produce, flowers and fresh-killed chickens.

The camera catches everything — strollers enjoying the sights, shoppers nosing around for olives and red peppers, women with head scarves chatting animatedly, an ultra-Orthodox Jew smoking a cigaret as he rushes along, and an irate shopper who threatens the cinematographer.

The footage is punctuated by muffled voices and the sound of guttural Yemenite songs.

At day's end, the merchants lock up and clean away the debris as beggars scrounge around for leftovers.

The Jerusalem Market, while modest and unpretentious, distills the mood of Mahane Yehuda.

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Art restoration studio turns to living artists

By
LYN BEN-DAT

TORONTO —

It's the story of the little art restoration studio that grew.

Odon Wagner, proprietor of the Odon Wagner Gallery, 194 Davenport Rd., came to Canada about 25 years ago after studying art restoration in Vienna and working at both the Louvre in Paris and the Royal British Museum in London.

After setting up a studio for art restoration, he decorated the small reception room with artwork. Over the years, this display has grown from 10 to 1,000 paintings, and even in these hard times, the inventory turnover is two and a half times a year.

"The gallery [which now occupies four floors] really grew out of a very organic origin and that's what I'm very proud about. I'm really a believer in a genuine growth, rather than a pretentious, high volume startup and then not being able to continue or keep up your promises," Wagner says.

Restoration is still an important part of the business. Other services include appraisals and authentication, and expert framing, using materials garnered from around the world.

The gallery has already established an enviable reputation in 19th century art, as "the foremost gallery in Canada. Normally if you would phone the Art Gallery of Ontario...or professional dealers, they would direct you to us for authentication and appraisal," says Wagner.

About six years ago, the gallery turned to living artists, who would present new challenges and new vision to the gallery and its staff that "hopefully would bear fruit."

Among those artists are several Canadians: Lee Wildjen, David Lloyd Glove and Barry Oretsky. The gallery also took on some contemporary South American and European artists.

Of these new artists, the most rewarding association has been with the Israeli painter, Lea Avizedek.

This Jerusalem-born artist has a distinctive style, marked by vivid colors, flowing lines and bold, vital figures. On a variety of media--watercolor, serigraphs, acrylic on canvas--she produces intriguing and candid depictions of her subjects, primarily women, in a range of poses and moods.

Avizedek's works have been sold throughout Europe. She appeals to "the most traditional art collectors," explains Wagner. "They are intrigued by Lea... there is a traditionalism about her. So we are not just talking about ethnic...or modern collectors, we are talking about art here. We are promoting her on the merits of art."

The Odon Wagner Gallery has held two highly successful shows of her works, one in Toronto and the other in Miami.

"It was incredible...there was such an emotional impact..It was very exciting getting the answer that your decision with Lea was right." Now Avizedek's world agent, the gallery has been approached to mount several more shows in Europe and the United States.

This success has fuelled a further development in the growth of the gallery. Wagner recently oversaw the opening of a new gallery in Scottsdale, Arizona.

Opening this gallery in the United States, he believes, will ensure a wider audience for his South American and Canadian artists, and for Avizedek as well.

Wagner is proud of the growth and development of his gallery. But even as it grows, he is dedicated to ensuring that its appeal, based on the range and variety of art it offers and a reputation for honesty and scholarship, should not diminish.

Busy as he is, Wagner is still most excited when he is inspecting new paintings.

"There couldn't be a field in this world that is more exuberant or more rewarding. The commodity that we are dealing with is pleasure. Pleasure for the eye."

A Pensive Woman by Lea Avizedek, acrylic on canvas.

Tapper heads to TSO

By
MYRON LOVE

WINNIPEG —

Winnipegger Max Tapper has been appointed the Toronto Symphony Orchestra's (TSO) new managing director.

Tapper, currently the executive director of the Winnipeg Symphony Orchestra (WSO) will assume his new position full time on April 1.

Tapper has also worked for the Manitoba Theatre Centre and the Royal Winnipeg Ballet. He says he has always had good fortune in that he has never had to apply for a job. Every five or six years another one comes his way.

Tapper's first exposure to show business came through his membership in B'nai Brith as a teenager in the mid-1960s. He became a founding member of an interfaith amateur theatre group established by B'nai Brith and a Catholic priest to foster better understanding between Christians and Jews.

For a short time he tried serious acting, but found his talents were more toward the administrative side.

"I saw a potential career in arts administration," he says. "I began taking courses and built a reputation as someone who could represent the arts."

For several years, he worked for the Manitoba Theatre Centre in a number of positions. In 1979, the Royal Winnipeg Ballet (RWB) came calling. He became development director. He left the RWB in 1983 to work as a development consultant for different arts groups around the country. In 1985, he was invited to become director of the WSO.

Max Tapper

At the WSO, Tapper oversaw a staff of 67 musicians, 14 administrative staff members and over 200 volunteers. He says the WSO's quality of music is second to none and that no city of equal size in North America can match Winnipeg's cultural riches. Still, after six years with the WSO, it was time to move on.

Tapper says he is looking forward to the challenge of running the 71-year-old TSO which, unlike the WSO, is in the red. He says his main immediate challenge is to work with the musicians and staff to reduce the deficit.

"It is an illustrious orchestra with an international reputation," he says of the TSO. "It is one of the predominant orchestras in Canada."

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Travel

TRAVEL TALK

By
LEN BUTCHER

This is the time of year many of you are getting ready to drive to **Florida** to spend the next few months enjoying the sand and sun while we freeze our assets off up here.

I don't blame you. As I sit here writing this column, it's -6 degrees out celsius. I don't know how cold that is (I'm still trying to figure out how many litres are in a gallon of gas) but anything that starts with a minus can't be good.

Anyway, the reason I even mention your trip--and this is directed only to those who drive south--is that I want you to take a little more time and stop in a fascinating city on your way.

That city is **Washington,** as in **D.C.** Unfortunately, this capitol of the **United States** has been getting a bum rap over the past few years, what with reports of murders and drug dealing. Now, I don't know all of you, but I somehow don't think that when you visit a city you book a hotel in the ghetto or go for a midnight stroll in a neighborhood infested with drug dealers.

Washington is no different than any other large **North American** city other than the fact that it has more to offer than most. For instance:

The **United States Holocaust Museum**. Although it won't open until April 1993, let me bring you up to date. The museum was "topped out" this past June after the last of its eight, five-storey towers was capped with a peaked roof reminiscent of the watch towers of **Auschwitz.**

Excavation work for the museum began in July 1989. Its foundation was laid over earth infused with the ashes of **Auschwitz, Bergen-Belsen** and other sites of the **Holocaust.** The museum is located on the **National Mall,** 400 yards from the **Washington Monument.** I'll keep you posted as it progresses.

Other sites worth seeing are **Pershing Park, Freedom Plaza** the historic **Willard Hotel** and **National Theatre.** And don't forget to take the glass-enclosed elevator to the observation deck in the historic "clock tower" in the renovated **Pavilion** at the **Old Post Office.**

Add to your list the new **Canadian** embassy on **Pennsylvania Avenue,** the **Chinatown Friendship Archway** and the new **Washington Harbor** complex in **Georgetown** that brought new life to a dying waterfront. While in **Georgetown,** visit **Georgetown Park,** an elaborate, Victorian-style shopping complex.

What all this means is that not only does this city have lots to offer--and I didn't even mention the **Smithsonian Institute,** which is worth a trip just to see this magnificent building and its displays--but it shows what a city can do when it has the will.

If you can't make it on the way to **Florida,** then stop on the way back. It'll still be there. But before you wander around like the typical tourist, stop in at the **Washington, D.C. Visitor Information Centre** at 1455 Pennsylvania Avenue, just one block from the **White House.** It will be a prudent move on your part.

* * * * *

Okay. You like excitement. Danger is your middle name. You live in the fast lane. In short, you're a happenin' kind of guy.

If you fit the above, have I got a trip for you. **Himalayan Kingdoms,** a **British** agency that specializes in high adventure, is planning the first guided climb of **Mount Everest.**

A spokesman for the agency says they're looking for people with climbing experience up to 23,000 feet. I guess that lets me out. The power was off in my elevator the other day and by the time I staggered up to my apartment, which is about 150 feet above ground, I was ready for an oxygen tent.

Anyway, this trip of a lifetime is planned for the autumn of 1993, which gives you plenty of time to get in shape. The key, however, seems to be personal compatibility.

"**Everest** is no place for individualists," said the spokesman. "We need adventurous, easy-going people. One disruptive team member will spoil it for everyone." He said the fierce **Himalayan** storms often forced expedition members into sharing a high-altitude tent for a week or more.

The agency has received deposits from 23 hopefuls whose ages range from 26 to 58. They're still open for entries although only 15 will be chosen for the tour. The cost? A stiff $18,900. But, hey. It costs money to live on the edge.

I don't have a number or address, but they're located in **Bristol, England.**

A HUNDRED VISITS

Sara Pachter of Fisher Fremont Travel in Toronto with Gideon Patt, Israel's minister of tourism, during her recent 100th trip to Israel. The tour covered the four corners of Israel, from Tel Aviv to Metulla and down to Jerusalem and the Dead Sea. Three busloads of tourists were treated to everything from visits to Druze villages to shopping expeditions to a private cruise on the Sea of Galilee.

Romania now a haven for bargain hunters

By
SHELDON KIRSHNER

BUCHAREST, Romania —

Attention all bargain hunters. Romania is probably the cheapest destination in Europe today.

To a North American, the prices (in U.S. dollars) are astounding:

•Seventeen dollars a day for room, board and treatment at a spa in the Carpathian Mountains.

•Ten dollars a night for a room in Romania's finest ski resort.

•Less than one dollar for a massage.

•Ten dollars for a sumptuous meal for two at a first-class restaurant.

How long these prices will last is anybody's guess. But if you're thinking of taking a holiday in Eastern Europe, now may be the time to go to Romania, whose dwindling Jewish population welcomes Jewish travellers.

In purely physical terms, Romania is blessed.

The Carpathian Mountains, which are dotted with quaint villages and spas, are truly beautiful. The countryside, whether in Transylvania, Wallachia or Moldavia, is often unspoiled, with horse-drawn hay wagons reminding a visitor of an earlier era. The ski resorts are easily accessible. The cities, though rather grayish in appearance, can be architecturally interesting.

I started my tour in Poina Brasov, a ski resort 120 kilometres north of Bucharest, the capital of and gateway to Romania. Nestled high up in the pine-scented Carpathians, Poina Brasov is regarded as Romania's best ski resort, and is only 20 minutes by car from the city of Brasov.

I stayed at the Hotel Alpin, a comfortable establishment close to ski trails, hiking paths and tennis courts. Although it lacks the amenities of a first-class hostelry in Canada or Switzerland, it's refreshingly inexpensive. Simple, clean rooms start at $10 a night.

The quality of the food at the Hotel Alpin is acceptable. But at a rustic restaurant in town called Coliba Haiducilor (Outlaw's Hut), you can sample such Romanian specialties as mititei (kebabs), ciorba (soup), mamaliga (corn mush) and sarmale (cabbage rolls), and be entertained by a gypsy band capable of belting out *Jerusalem of Gold, Hava Nagila* and *Fiddler on the Roof.*

In nearby Brasov (formerly called Kronstadt), you can wander through the old town and cast your eyes on fairly well-preserved Gothic, Renaissance and Baroque buildings. You will also see bread lines, a sign of Romania's difficult transition from communism to capitalism.

In Bran, 32 kilometres south of Brasov, you can visit the 14th century castle of the infamous Vlad the Impaler, who was otherwise known as Dracula. Last occupied by the late Queen Marie, Bran castle is currently being renovated, and should be ready for tours soon.

In a square at the base of the castle, souvenir vendors hawked their goods. I bought two woolen hats and a wooden flute for only $3. These rock-bottom prices, I was to learn, are typical of Romania.

Next on the itinerary was Covosna, in Transylvania's scenic Zinelor Valley. I stayed at the Hotel Bradula, which, prior to the 1989 revolution, was exclusively reserved for the Communist party elite.

The hotel, which is part of a spa complex, caters to tourists suffering from cardio-vascular and digestive tract ailments and metabolic diseases. A complete package, on a nightly basis, is $17.

On the road to Iasi, the chief city in Moldavia, I passed rolling farmland and pristine forests, bizarre rock formations and clear lakes. Iasi itself was forgettable, save for the neo-Gothic Palace of Culture — a museum of history, art, ethnography and science — and the exquisite 17th century Trei Ierarhi Church.

Bucharest, formerly the "Paris of Eastern Europe," has lost much of its elegance. Calea Victoriei, the main thorughfare, was once chic. Now it's sadly dilapidated. The state-owned shops in Bucharest are dark and dingy. The new private stores are far more appealing.

I stayed at the Hotel Bucaresti, a 4-star establishment where a half-hour, full-body massage cost the equivalent of 75 cents!

In general, Bucharest is drab, but it has its strengths — the still quaint neighborhoods harking back to another age; the Arc de Triomphe marking Romania's World War I dead; the colorful Amzei fruit, vegetable, flower and cheese market; the leafy parks (Herastrau and the Cismigiu Gardens); the Village Museum, which celebrates Romania's accomplished folk architecture.

Several buildings in Bucharest, notably the old Central Committee building of the Communist party, still bear the bullet scars of the 1989 revolution. The strangest sight in the city is the late Nicolae Ceausescu's towering but unfinished office complex, which cost billions of dollars and drained Romania dry in the 1980s. It stands empty and forlorn, a monument to hubris and shortsightedness.

* * *

For further information, contact the Company for Youth Travel in Bucharest (4-6 Onesti Street).

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Collection symbolizes modern style

By
STEPHANIE CHAPMAN

Amelia Stangl and her company Eche Designs are pleased to annouce the launching of a clothing collection that is "a symbol of thoroughly modern style."

Stangl has produced a line of interchangeable and versatile career separates that are just right for business and social functions.

The basis of the collection is classic tailoring with an emphasis on comfort and fit.

In a recent interview, Stangl said the softer tailoring can be seen in the long fitted jackets. She has used heavy top stitching and patch pockets for detailing.

The pants in the collection are baggy. Stangl added that while the cut is generous, the garments still maintain a classic line.

Blouses and skirts are draped. Stangl said many of her blouses are large — menswear inspired.

As far as overall fashion trends are concerned, Stangl said there is a big swing towards a minimalistic look. She explained that many styles are based on European designs.

This season, consumers will see clean fronts, double-width pockets and prominent detailing. She added that there will be a move away from the '60s retro work.

In her collection, Stangl has used colors that are reminiscent of dried flowers. Her garments are available in shades of moss, tea rose, blue-tinged hydrangea and driftwood.

Stangl said that this is her her second season. She graduated in 1986 from Sheridan College. From there, she travelled to Europe where she studied in Paris.

Upon her return home, Stangl undertook further studies as well as a position teaching design illustration. During this time, she also joined a menswear firm.

Given her exposure to European trends, Stangl was more than qualified to offer her opinions concerning the Canadian fashion industry.

She pointed out that one of the reasons why the industry is lagging can be traced to the fact that while Canadian consumers are willing to spend money on European or American names, they are still reluctant to buy Canadian.

General design trends depict a move to simple, but classic styling in daywear collections, she said.

She added that the average woman wants a quality outfit that is affordable. Stangl said the most popular garments are those that can be worn season-to-season.

Ciona offers timeless evening wear

Ann Ciona describes her collection of evening wear designs as "one step below couture."

The line is a sophisticated mix of co-ordinated evening separates and dresses which allows customers to build their wardrobe seasonally.

She also described it as a "sensible line." The changes in the collection relate back to the impact the Gulf War had on her as a designer and the fashion industry as a whole.

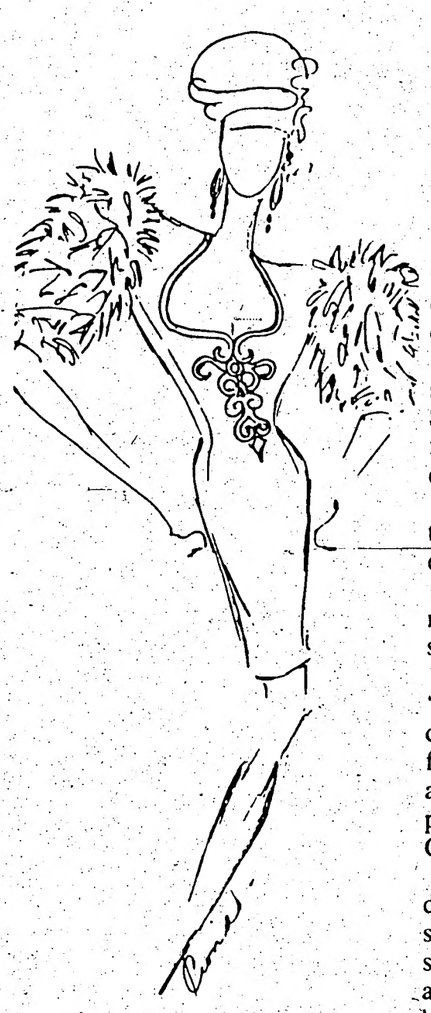
Gone are the days when gowns were worn for only one occasion. Much of the frivolousness has left fashion, and as such, it has meant a change of style for most designers.

Ciona said the key to her collection now is simplicity and elegance.

As far as styling goes, Ciona designed a series of dinner suits that can also be worn for weddings. She said the designs are classic so one can wear the garments for years.

In a telephone interview Ciona said she would be attending an up-and-coming wedding in a suit that she designed for herself years ago.

Skirt lengths are at or above the knee, and these have not changed, she said. Another aspect that makes the garment timeless are shoulder pads. Ciona said she still designs with shoulder pads as they help the garment to keep its shape as well as balance the body.



While frivolity may have disappeared, romance in design still lives. These qualities are found in Ciona's fall and winter collection that sports the timeless elegance of black with vivid jewel tones and unusual fabrications.

The materials Ciona has used include lame, chiffon, gazar, brocade, silk, crepe, jersey and wool imported from Italy.

As far as colors are concerned, Ciona said she has used black which enables the wearer to accessorize the outfit as she sees fit.

When buying a total outfit, Ciona said there is a strong glitter influence. She cited the quilted gold jacket that features brocade with fur cuffs as an example.

She said that many of the sequinned trims and glitzy buttons are imported from Europe.

Ciona is a recipient of the Woolmark Award of Recognition for Design Excellence.

One press release wrote of Ciona: "Her natural ability as a designer is definitely enhanced by her love of fine fabrics, unusual trimmings and above all, her respect for the buying power and good fashion sense of Canadian women."

Canadian-born Ciona has been designing for the past 18 years. Since she left school, she has been designing for Beker Fashions. Ciona added that this had been a privilege because this has lead to her exposure to European, Asian and American designing trends.

— S.C.

Free Lipman scarf for old clothing

Marci Lipman displays the polar bear scarf she is giving away as a free gift in exchange for items of clothing.

TORONTO —

In keeping with the holiday spirit, Marci Lipman will be launching a promotion to benefit Women in Transition, Inc., an emergency shelter for women and children.

Lipman wants people to clean out their closets and bring in clothing that they are no longer using. Shirts, sweaters, pants and jackets in good condition will be sent to the two shelters.

The promotion will run from Nov. 24 to Dec. 24. The Marci Lipman store, located at 231 Avenue Rd., will serve as a drop off depot.

Woman in Transition, Inc., was established in 1974 to provide safe shelter to woman and children who have been rendered homeless as a result of domestic violence. In addition to providing emergency shelter, Women in Transition, Inc., also offers crisis intervention, meals and counselling.

As a special thank you to anyone who brings in two or more articles of clothing, Lipman will give an original design polar bear fleece scarf worth over $25. The art was designed by Toronto artist Robert Kitchen and features polar bears romping across a bright red background.

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Business Outlook

Cleanol's Canadian owner reclaims firm from Americans

By
CYNTHIA GASNER

TORONTO —

Cleanol Services Inc., Canada's largest and most experienced residential and commercial drapery, carpet and upholstery cleaning company, which was purchased by an American company 10 years ago, has once again become a Canadian-owned company.

Toronto lawyer/entrepreneur, Jay Hennick, the president and chief executive officer of FirstService Corporation, recently announced that FirstService has purchased 90 percent of Cleanol Services from Coit Drapery Cleaners Inc. of San Francisco, Calif., with Robert Jenkins, president of Cleanol, purchasing the balance of Cleanol.

Hennick, who has loved the challenge of business since he was a boy, established Superior Pool, Spa & Leisure Ltd., a commercial swimming pool and recreation facility management company in 1973 while he was attending William Lyon Mackenzie Collegiate Institute.

After he graduated with a bachelor's degree in economics from York University and a law degree from the University of Ottawa in 1981, he began working with the law firm Fogler, Rubinoff (then Seigel, Fogler), specializing in the areas of securities and corporate commercial law. In 1985, he became a partner.

Spearheaded by Hennick, FirstService Corporation was formed in 1988 to create a diversified group of consumer and commercial-related service businesses. To date, the company has acquired majority equity positions in three service organizations: Superior Pool, Spa & Leisure Ltd., College Pro Painters Limited and Cleanol Services Inc.

Hennick told *The CJN* that he has been able to continue his law practice on a full-time basis and be involved with the business sector because of the structure of the companies he invests in through FirstService.

"Our investment in Cleanol, as well as the other operating companies, is primarily passive in nature," says Hennick. "For us, one of the key ingredients is the continuity of a strong existing management team with both a proven track record and a desire of our operating partners to commit themselves financially to the success of the business by becoming a minority shareholder partner."

He explains that the reason FirstService is able to be passive investors is because "we allow our businesses to operate autonomously as independent profit centres."

Hennick says he believes that the experience he gained by starting his own business, "has enhanced my legal practice because I am able to offer a business perspective to ongoing legal issues."

Jenkins worked part-time in various areas at Cleanol while he was at high school and university. After he graduated with an honors degree in economics from the University of Toronto, he joined Cleanol in the sales and service department. He moved up the company ranks to management positions and in 1990, he was appointed the president.

Operations at Cleanol include a fleet of 45 specially designed radio-dispatched trucks which each year provides more than 28,000 residential, commercial and industrial customers with many specialized services which include drapery cleaning, alterations, repairs and custom draperies, on-site carpet and upholstery cleaning, wall washing and floor maintenance.

Jenkins says that early in 1991, Cleanol implemented a cleaning franchise system outside of its core Toronto market area. To date, four franchise units have been sold — in Newmarket, Aurora, and two franchise units in Oakville.

TOYOTA TALK

Toyota cars join the list of Japanese vehicles that are now being marketed in Israel. For many years the Japanese manufacturers observed the Arab boycott almost to the letter. For the car makers it made good economic sense to deal with a potential market of 140 million, rather than the limited market of about 4 million in Israel. Subaru was the only Japanese manufacturer to ignore the boycott. For many years now Subaru was seen on the roads in Isreal and soon it became the No. 1 seller. In recent years, other agencies established themselves in Israel. In October, Toyota showrooms opened in Jerusalem, Tel Aviv and Haifa. The cars ranged in price from $17 to 26,000 (U.S.) and the agents reported orders for 250 cars in the first day alone. This picture was taken in Tel Aviv.

Professional image consultant is targeting the teen market

TORONTO —

Oscar Wilde once quipped, "The world is my oyster, but I used the wrong fork."

Shannon Smith has created a business that will help you select the right fork as well as add a touch of class to everything you do, whether you are a teenager, an executive or a senior.

A professional image maker, Smith, the president of Premiere Image Inc., teaches people how to make the right impression — eat, drink, dress, walk, talk and even think.

Smith explains that "using the wrong fork can be hazardous to your career." At her classes, she places emphasis on communications skills which she says are "vital for getting you to the top and keeping you there."

She says that the demand is rapidly growing for classes to polish young people beginning from age 7. "My adult clients have been asking me to work with their younger children and teenagers. It appears that there are very few opportunities, even at a private school, where these young people can learn these crucial life skills."

Smith notes that today young people often lack self-esteem and they are uncomfortable in many social situation. "They want to fit in and do the right thing, and that's what we teach them — skills that they carry with them for the rest of their lives."

Many parents, she says, live busy lifestyles and some adults don't know contemporary etiquette. "With more mobility, European manners, Japanese protocol and the breakdown of the Soviet bloc, these skills are more important than ever before. The world is getting smaller."

The elegant, black-haired beauty captures her students' attention with her own personal story. She tells of an 8-year-old girl who was confined to a wheelchair because of an accident.

Shannon Smith of Premiere Image Inc.

for newly-hired executives, it dropped to 12 percent.

"The 1990s will be an age of refinement." She comments that the job market is increasingly competitive and firms will hire individuals who not only have the credentials but are able to present themselves in a very polished professional way which encompasses everything from choosing the right hairstyle to knowing how to properly pay the bill for lunch.

Premiere Image, (416) 440-1484, offers various packages, both public and in-house sessions plus private individual coaching. Some of the programs offered by Premiere include The Well Mannered Weekend, A Touch of Class and Finishing Touches for Young People.

Smith notes that all courses are tax deductible. She says, "Finishing Touches could be the single greatest gift you ever give your child."

— C.G.

Workshops set for individuals

The daughter of an alcoholic father, Smith says that she was told she would never walk again. With help, she garnered enough courage and determination to pull herself out of her devastating position and from her experience, she inspires her students to strive for success and perfection.

The Toronto-based international image-etiquette consultant conducts workshops, programs and seminars for individuals and a variety of organizations including Dale Carnegie Systems, CBC, and the Royal Bank.

Smith points out that a recent survey of the top Fortune 500 companies showed that 80 percent of top-level management were impeccably mannered. For middle management, the percentage dropped to 40 percent and

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President

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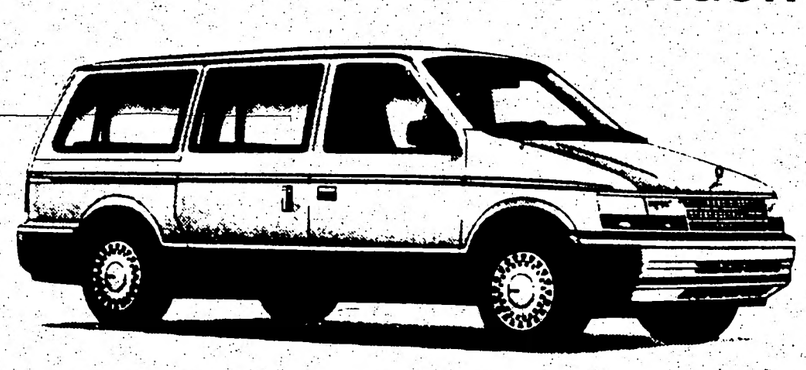
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42 SHELBORNE AVE. CHOICE 50' LOT East of Bathurst. 3 bdrms., 3 baths on main + fin. lower, move-in cond. Value. Please call Judy Goldman 488-4488.

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279,000
Ideal starter, 3 bdrms, 2 baths, updated kit, fin. bsmnt, gar.

BATHURST-JCC RAVINE
Custom-built, 4 bdrms, den, fam rm, huge liv/din, fin. bsmnt, dble gar, steps to all.

BATHURST-CLARK
4 bdrm, 4 baths, fam. rm., w/o, upgraded kit., fin. bsmnt., dble gar.

YORK DOWNS-BATHURST
4 bdrm, 2 storey, good-size liv/din, fin. bsmnt, lge lot.

A. & D. SEIDMAN 633-7373

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Bathurst/Lawrence - Steps to TTC. Space efficient. 1,900s.f. Built 1986. No agents. $433,400. 416-655-5359. 8093

Bathurst/Lawrence - 3 bedroom bungalow. $459,000. 782-4626. 8027

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Bathurst/Steeles - Ridgegate. Luxury 3 plus 1 bedroom, 4 bathrooms. Finished basement. Garage. 665-1874. 8115

Bathurst/Clark - 3,800s.f. 5 bedrooms. 2 ensuites. Library. Huge master with sitting area. His and her walk-in closets. Florida kitchen. 738-5978, 731-2136. 7759

Bathurst south of Steeles. 4 bedroom. Family room. $1,500. 782-9944, 782-8884. 8109

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Skymark! Large 1,711 sq. ft. corner unit, 2 bdrms, 2 ensuites. Grand size family room + Florida room. Drastically reduced for quick sale! $259,900 asking. Please call Goldie Feldman.
Harvey Kalles Real Estate Ltd. Realtor

- **7420 BATHURST.** Hgst. 2 bd., $219,900. Gabby Goldring, 731-7111.
- **PRIMROSE.** 1,300 sq. ft., "Larkspur." Perry Waisglass, 731-7111.
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12 Shared Accommodation

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14 Apartments Wanted

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38 Announcements

Jewish Community Directory. New Back Index published. Jewish Information Service, 635-5600. 7973

Cars to be donated to Jewish organization. 1991 tax receipts issued! Call Rabbi Lebowitz, 636-7530. 8083

39 Social Announcements

ROSEN - Jeffrey and Lisa (nee Small) are thrilled to announce the safe arrival of their first child, Jordana Stephanie, weighing 6 lbs. 12 ozs. on Tuesday, December 10, 1991. Excited grandparents are Mynne Rosen and Rubin & Mary Small. Jordana is named in loving memory of her grandfather Joseph Rosen and her great-grandmother Sima Lemberg. Special thanks to Dr. S. Grynspan, Alice and the rest of the nursing team at Branson Hospital. 8133

Flicht-Einhorn. Joe and Marlene Flicht and Gaille and Willie Einhorn are thrilled to announce the engagement of their children Elyse Beth to Sheldon. Proud grandparents are Rose and Henry Wexler. 8095

44 Contents Sale

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46 Employment Opportunities

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46 Employment Opportunities

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47 Employment Wanted

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48 Business Opportunities

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49 Financial Opportunities

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50 Domestic Help Available

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52 Personals

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53 Business Personals

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54 Personal Companions

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55 Obituaries

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55 Obituaries

Louis Lamys on Nov 29/91, late of 80 Antibes Dr. #2702.
Allen Swartz on Dec 1/91, late of 201 Sherborne Street #2209.
Shifra Axelrod on Nov 30/91, late of 240 Heath St. #1701.
Ben Socken on Nov 30/91, late of 98 Brighton Avenue.
Cecilia MacDonald on Nov 30/91, late of 460 Roselawn Avenue.
Harry Saltzman on Dec 2/91, late of St. Raphael's 1020 McNicoll.
Ben Langer on Dec 2/91, late of 300 Antibes Drive #702.
Karola Gelber on Dec 2/91, late of 4266 Bathurst St. #211.
David Diamond on Dec 3/91, late of 85 Kingsworth Road R.R. #4.
Sarah Cooper on Dec 2/91, late of 25 Dellbank Road.

BENJAMIN'S PARK MEMORIAL CHAPEL

56 Unveilings

The unveiling of a monument to the beloved memory of the late **Anne Wolder** will take place on Sunday, December 22, 1991, 11:00am, at Pardes Shalom Cemetery, Shaar Shalom Section. Relatives and friends are invited to attend. 8115

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MAJESTIC ELECTRONIC SUPERSTORE

Volunteers boost soldiers' morale

By
RANDI DRUZIN

The head of the international organization, Volunteers for Israel, said Canadians who volunteer to work in the Israeli military are an invaluable asset to the Israeli Defence Force, and to the world's Jewish community.

In his address at the first reunion of the Toronto branch of Volunteers for Israel, Nov. 28, Israeli Lieutenant-Colonel Moishe Reinez said IDF servicemen appreciate Canadians who volunteer for national labor.

"Israeli soldiers dream of being in Canada and the United States," he told an audience of 150 at Jerusalem Hall. "So when they see you volunteer to work in Israel, they know that Israel matters to you, and this moral support is important."

In its nine year history, volunteers for Israel, or Sar-El, have recruited 33,000 people to perform menial labor in the IDF. Through its offices worldwide — including those in Toronto and Montreal — Sar-El has recruited Jews and non Jews to work in Israel for three weeks as field hands, construction workers and cleaning staff.

These volunteers have set an example by their work ethic, says Reinez. "When (Israel) soldiers see volunteers working hard, they feel they have to make a greater effort to keep up," he said.

Reinez, who recently took part in Israel's organized efforts to airlift 14,000 Ethiopian Jews to Israel (Mission Solomon), said Sar-El plays an important role by encouraging students to work in Israel. It is important for young Jews to experience Israel, he said, because they are the future of the Jewish community in the Diaspora.

He noted that the number of IDF volunteers increased dramatically during the Persian Gulf War. "In January 1991 we had 474 volunteers, and the next month we had 800," he said, enthusiastically.

Steven Bowman, who organized the reunion with five other former volunteers, said Reinez's speech inspired everyone in the audience, including those who had never been involved with Sar-El. "I had a lot of phone calls after the meeting from people interested in volunteering," he said.

Bowman, himself, recommends the experience. "It's the best way to get involved, to roll up your sleeves and help out," he said. "I spent my time in Israel helping to make a parking lot for heavy machinery. It wasn't glamorous. We didn't live in the Hilton. But it was rewarding."

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- Repairs to all types of fine clocks & watches
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Includes walls & straight ceilings in bedroom, living room, hall, kitchen and bath.

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SUNNY BROOK

CANDLELIGHTING TIME IS 4:23 P.M.

Freshness you can taste! Service you'll appreciate!

241 WILMINGTON AVE. (in the Bathurst Manor Plaza) DOWNSVIEW
CLOSED SAT. OPEN SUNDAY

309 FINCH AVE. W. (at Bathurst St.) WILLOWDALE
CLOSED SAT. OPEN SUNDAY

10341 YONGE ST. (just n. of Major Mackenzie) RICHMOND HILL

FROM FROZEN CONCENTRATE
OLD SOUTH ORANGE JUICE
.88 12 FL. OZ. TIN

NO COUPONS REQUIRED!

SUNNY BROOK fruits & vegetables

SPECIAL 1.49 LB. 3.28 KG. — FRESH ONTARIO SNOW-WHITE MUSHROOMS

SPECIAL .99 LB. 2.18 KG. — DIRECT FROM FLORIDA CANADA #1 GRADE GREEN BEANS

SPECIAL .69 LB. 1.52 KG. — PROD. OF USA, CAN. #1 GRADE LARGE SIZE VINE-RIPENED TOMATOES

SPECIAL .79 EA. — CALIFORNIA #1 GRADE FRESH 'N CRISP CELERY STALKS

SPECIAL .99 DOZEN — BRING BACK THE SUNSHINE WITH... SUNKIST NAVEL ORANGES

PROD. OF CALIFORNIA HARTLEY VARIETY JUMBO SIZE WALNUTS .99 LB. 2.18 KG.

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SPECIAL .79 — INTRODUCING... FAMILY'S BEST POTATO CHIPS ASST. 180 G. BAG KOSHER!

REG. OR DIET PEPSI OR 7-UP
24x355 ML. TINS 5.99 + DEPOSIT
750 ML. BOTTLE .39 + DEPOSIT

FRESH! GRADE "A"
WHOLE KOSHER CHICKENS
Extra Low Price 1.89 LB. 4.17 KG.
PRODUCT OF ONTARIO

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ALSO AVAILABLE AT RICHMOND HILL
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GAY LEA SOUR CREAM 500 G. TUB KOSHER! — SPECIAL .99

ASTRO BALKAN STYLE YOGURT ASST. 500 G. TUB — SPECIAL .99

COUPON VALUE 1.00
KRAFT MIRACLE WHIP
REG. OR LIGHT 1.5 LTR. JAR 2.99 WITH THIS COUPON #33891529
SPECIAL PRICE WITHOUT COUPON 3.99
VALID UNTIL DEC. 30/91. LIMIT 1 COUPON PER PURCHASE

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We reserve the right to limit quantities.

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PICK UP AT 15 & 25 Canyon Ave. (Canyon, near Bathurst Street)
PICK UP AT 4455 Bathurst St. (in front of apartment building)
PICK UP AT JCC, 4588 Bathurst St. (at main entrance)
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